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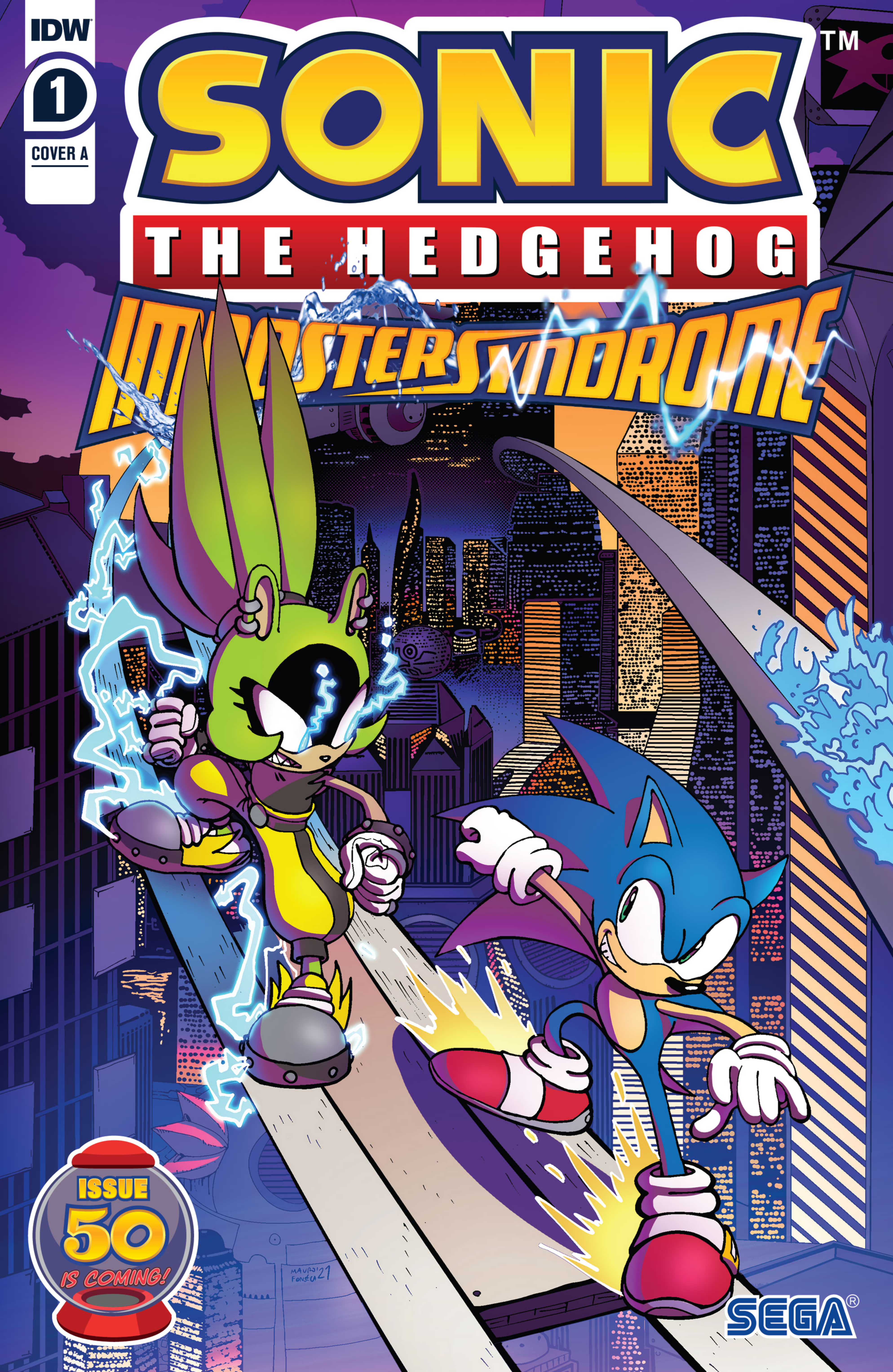
COVER A

SONIC

TM

THE HEDGEHOG

IMPOSTER SYNDROME



MAURO
FONSECA 21

SEGA®

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG

IMPOSTER SYNDROME

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Special thanks to Mai Kiyotaki, Michael Cisneros, Sandra Jo, Sonic Team, and everyone at Sega for their invaluable assistance.

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FILE: 1M9-SYM-001

"OPERATION:
REMASTER" IS
MOVING INTO ITS
FINAL TESTING
STAGES.

WITH
THIS, I WILL
FINALLY BE ABLE
TO BREAK WHAT I
AFFECTIONATELY
CALL "THE SONIC
CYCLE."

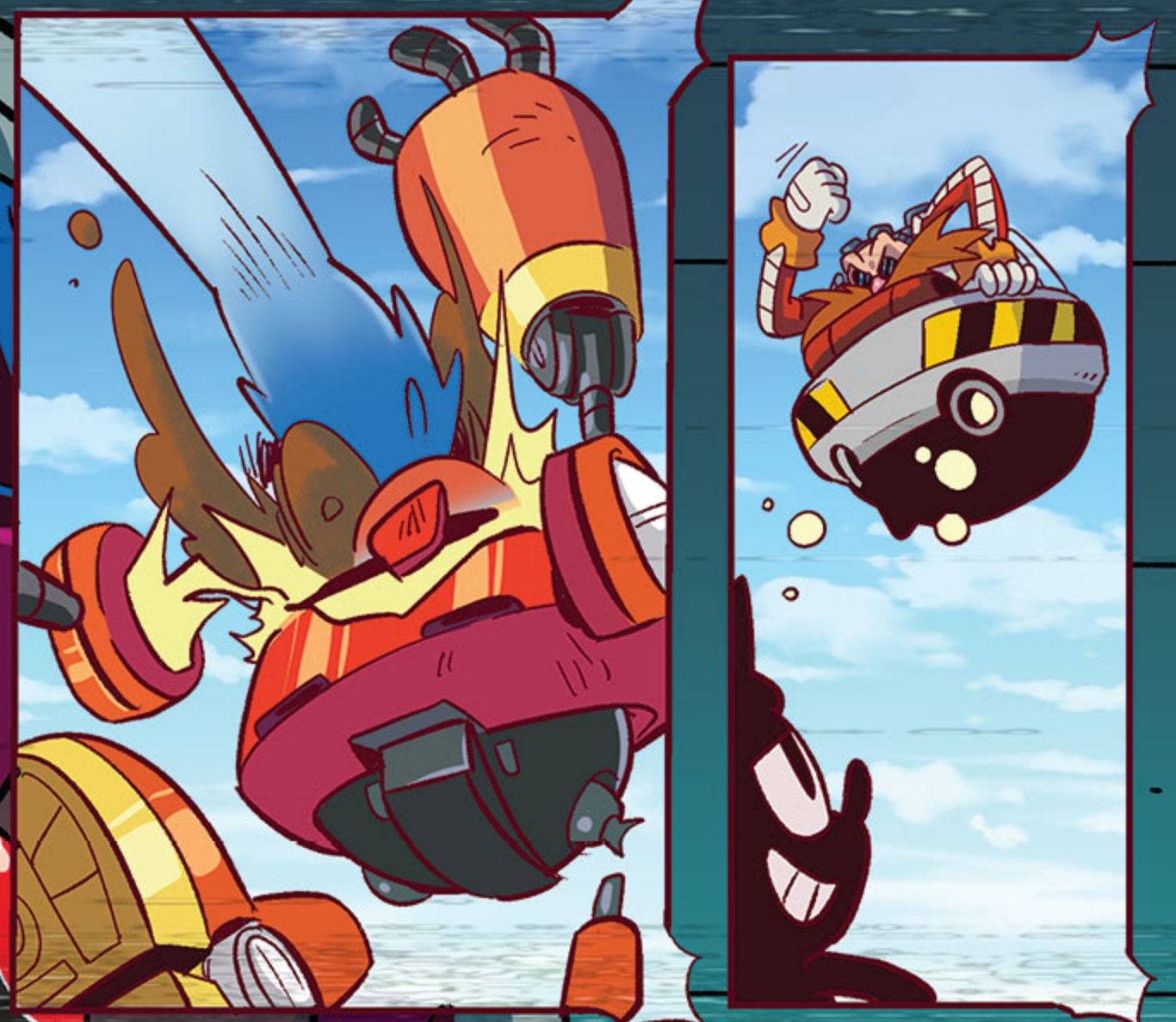
FILE: 1M9-SYM-001

TO WIT:
DR. EGGMAN
STAGES A
BOLD PLAN TO
RESHAPE THE
WORLD...



FILE: 1M9-SYM-001

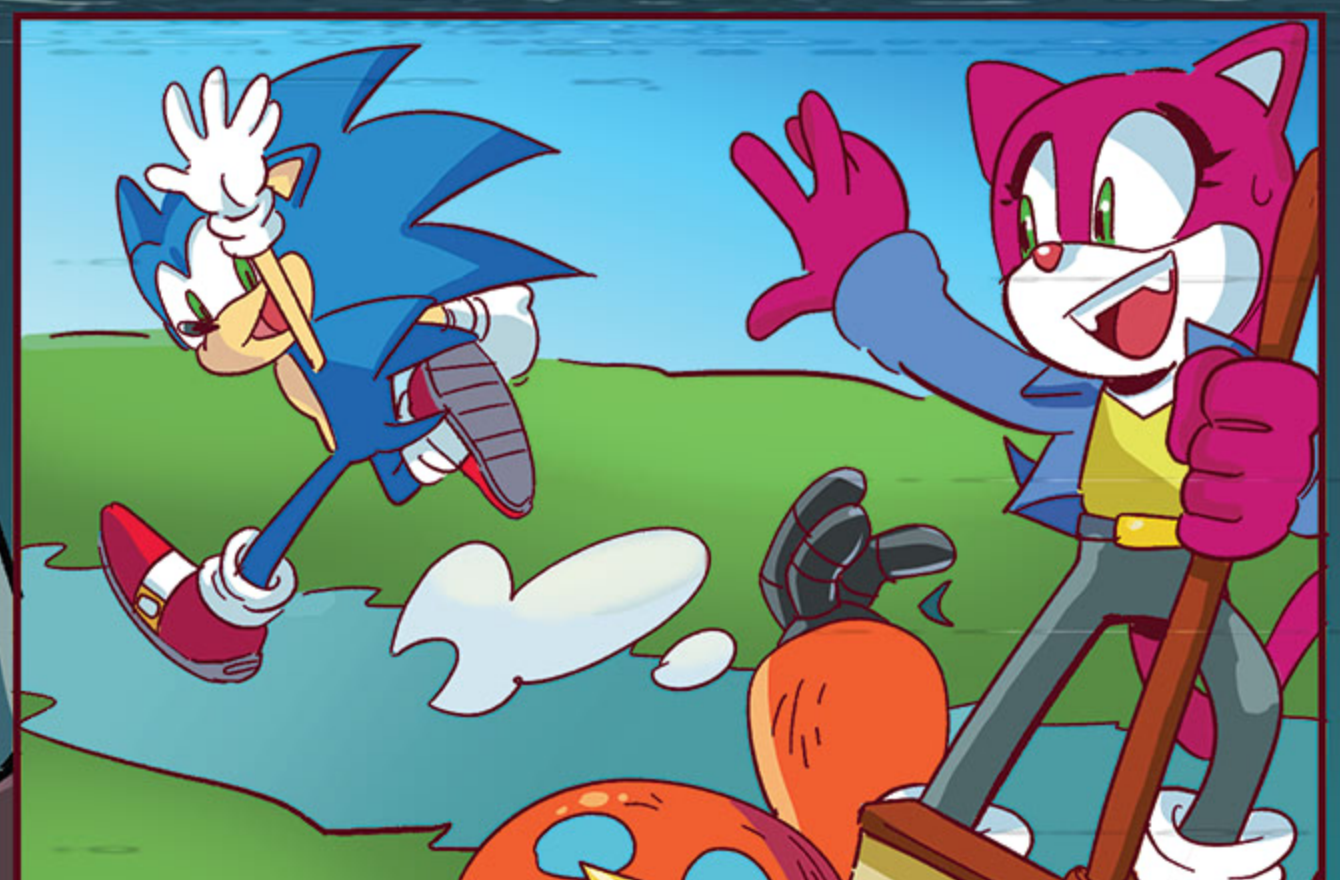
...SONIC
ARRIVES,
SOMETIMES WITH
HIS MENAGERIE OF
FRIENDS, TO RUIN
EVERYTHING...



FILE: 1M9-SYM-001

...UNTIL FINALLY
THE DAY IS "SAVED."
THE GENERAL POPULACE
REBUILDS AND RETURNS
TO THEIR REGULAR LIVES.

NO
EVOLUTION.
NO VISION. NO
FUTURE.



FILE: 1M9-SYM-001

THANKFULLY, I'M HERE. STEP ONE OF "OPERATION: REMASTER" WILL BE TO REMOVE DR. EGGMAN FROM PLAY.



HE IS A REVOLUTIONARY, A VISIONARY, AND GROOMS A FINE MUSTACHE. BUT HE GETS TUNNEL-VISION WHEN IT COMES TO SONIC.

I HAVE STUDIED UNDER THE MASTER, SEEN HIS FEW SHORT-COMINGS, AND PERFECTED HIS TECHNIQUE.

HE'LL THANK ME IN THE END. I'M SURE OF IT.

FILE: 1M9-SYM-001

STEP TWO: REPLACE THE SO-CALLED "HEROES" WHO STAND IN THE WAY OF PROGRESS.

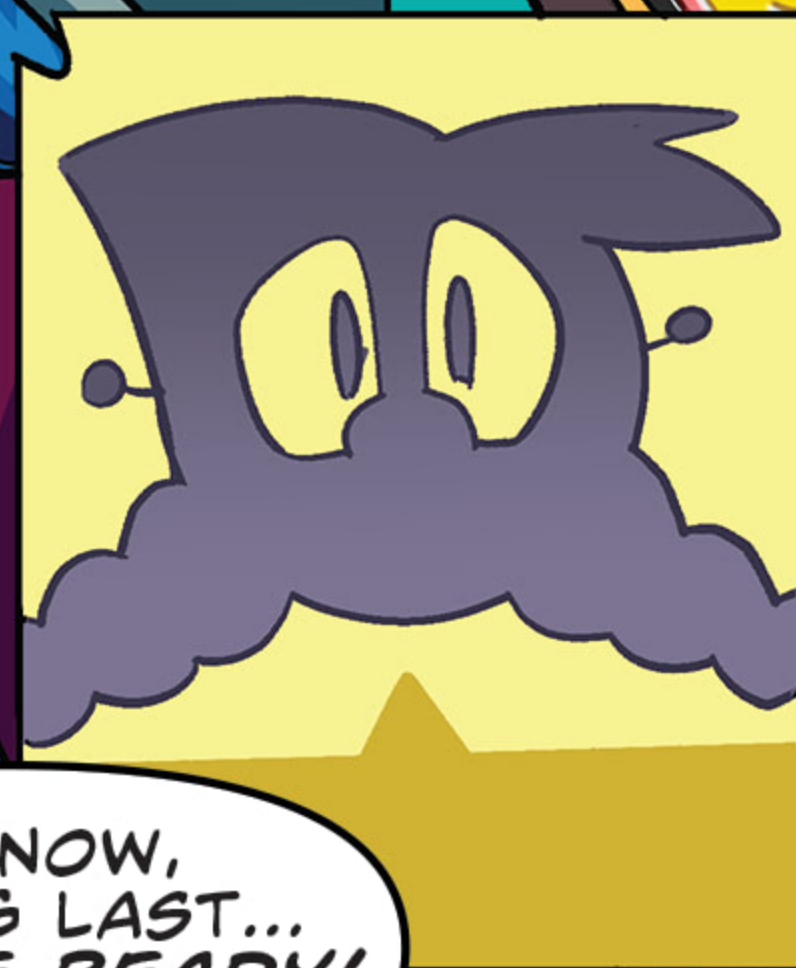
THE GENERAL POPULACE RELIES ON THEM FAR TOO MUCH, BUT IT'S FAR SIMPLER TO REPLACE A FEW CELEBRITIES THAN CHANGE SOCIETY.



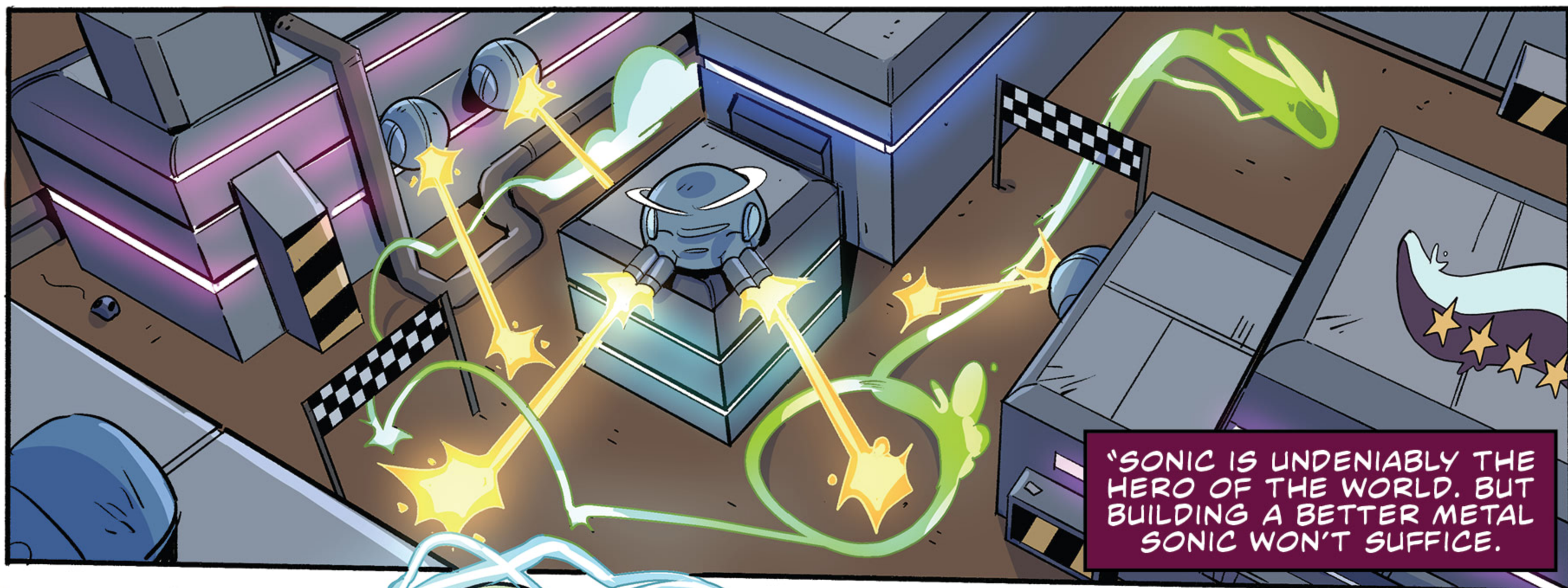
BY CONTROLLING THE "HERO-VERSUS-VILLAIN" DYNAMIC, I WILL BE ABLE TO SHAPE THE WORLD AND ITS PEOPLE WITH THE VERY THEATRICS THEY'VE BECOME SO ACCUSTOMED TO.

FILE: 1M9-SYM-001

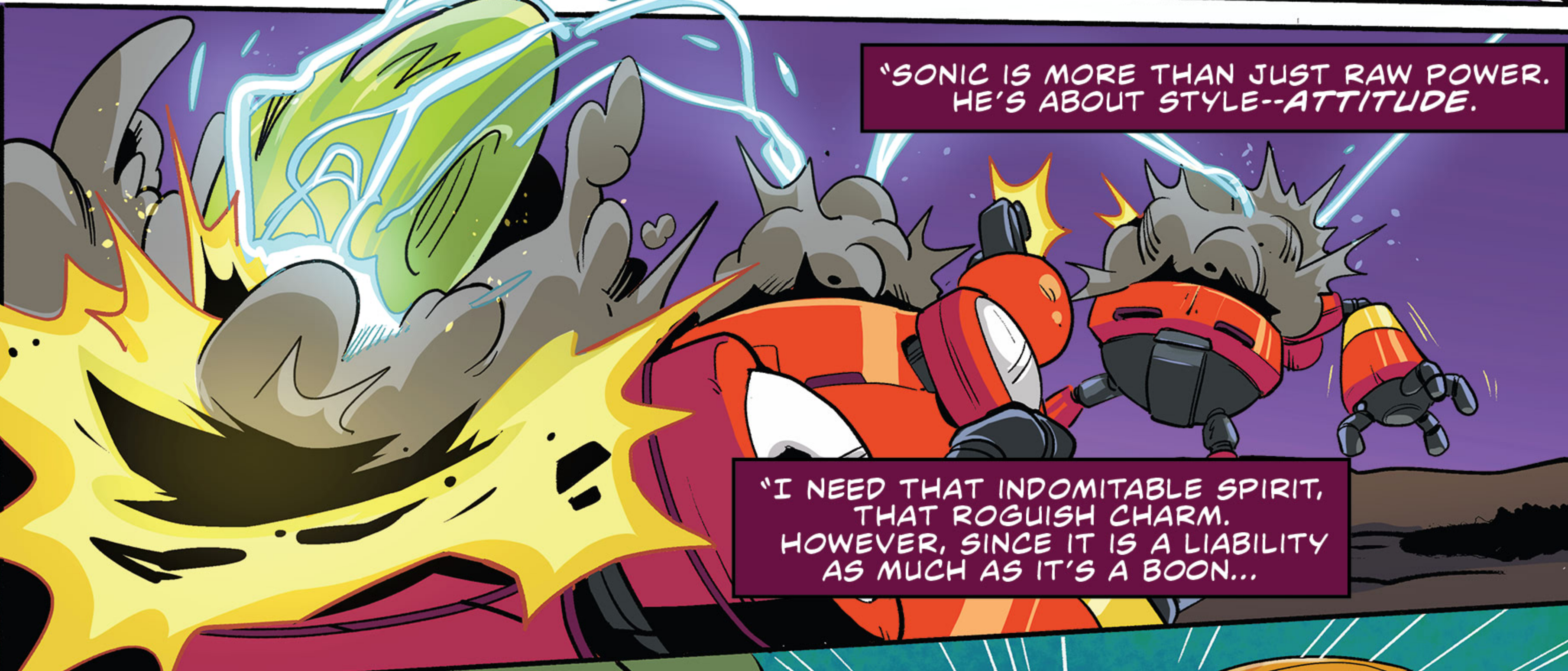
IT'S BEEN AN ARDUOUS JOURNEY TO GATHER AND ASSEMBLE ALL THE NECESSARY COMPONENTS TO MAKE THIS PLAN WORK.



BUT NOW, AT LONG LAST... THEY'RE READY!



"SONIC IS UNDENIABLY THE HERO OF THE WORLD. BUT BUILDING A BETTER METAL SONIC WON'T SUFFICE."



"SONIC IS MORE THAN JUST RAW POWER. HE'S ABOUT STYLE--ATTITUDE."

"I NEED THAT INDOMITABLE SPIRIT, THAT ROGUSH CHARM. HOWEVER, SINCE IT IS A LIABILITY AS MUCH AS IT'S A BOON..."



"...SURGE WILL REPLACE HIM, AND I WILL KEEP THE BRAVADO ON A LEASH."

YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD TOUCH ME? PATHETIC!

"AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED, THERE ARE 'DESIGN FLAWS' INHERENT IN SONIC."



CHEAP
SHOT FOR
A CHEAP
BOT!

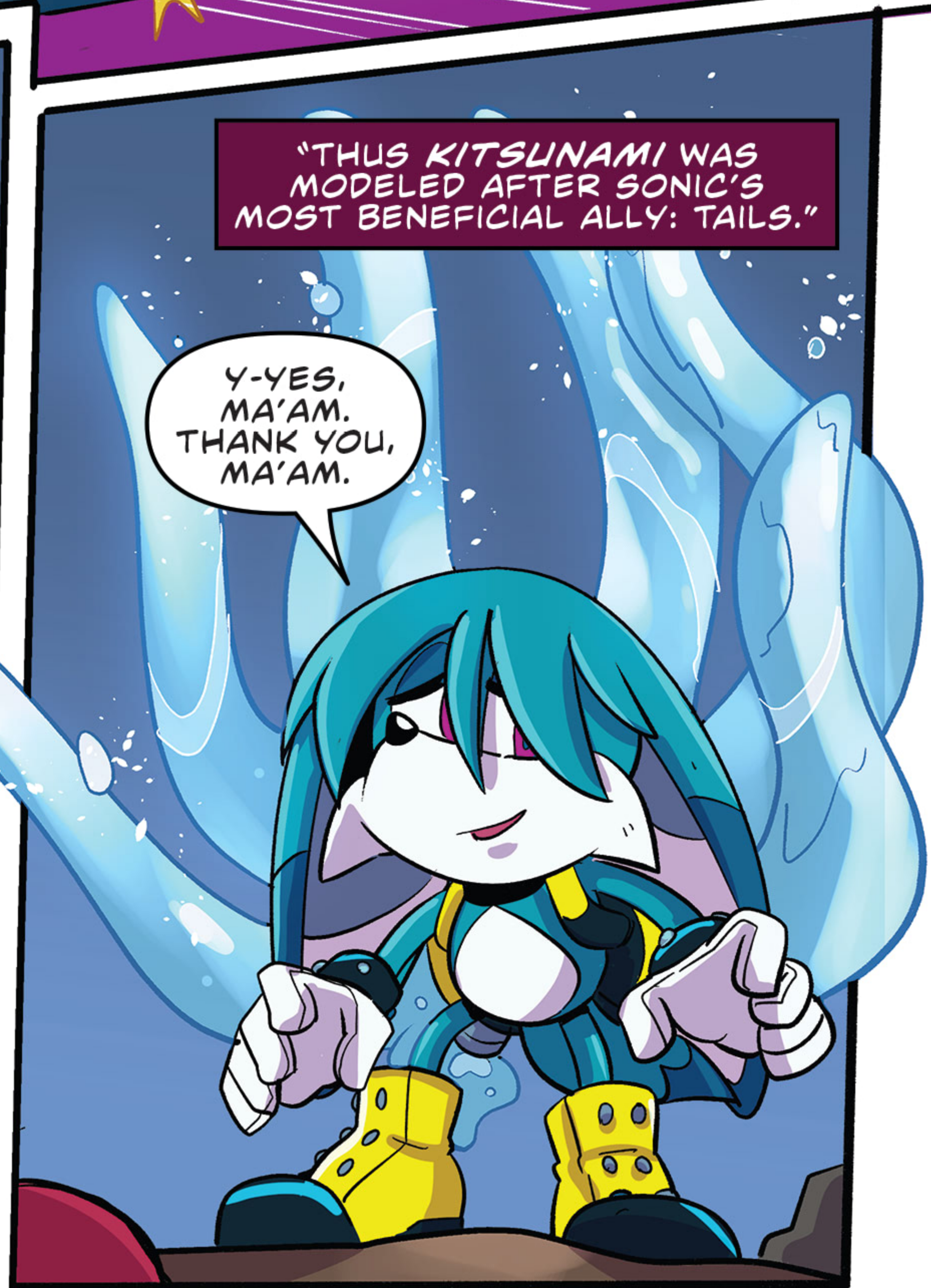
"SURGE NEEDS A SUPPORT
UNIT TO MAKE UP FOR HER
SHORT-COMINGS. AN
ANALYTICAL BALANCE TO THE
BRASHNESS; SOMEONE TO
LOOK BEFORE SHE LEAPS."

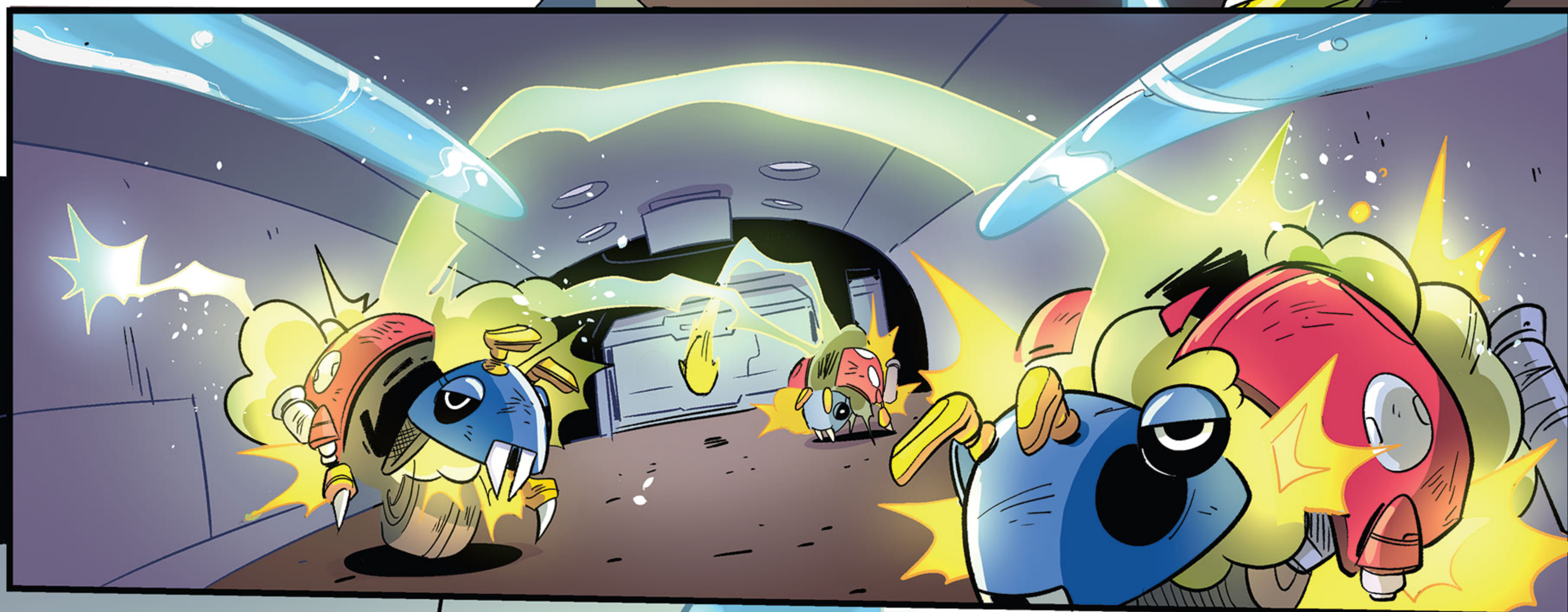
NICE
ASSIST, KID.
DON'T LET IT
GO TO YOUR
HEAD.

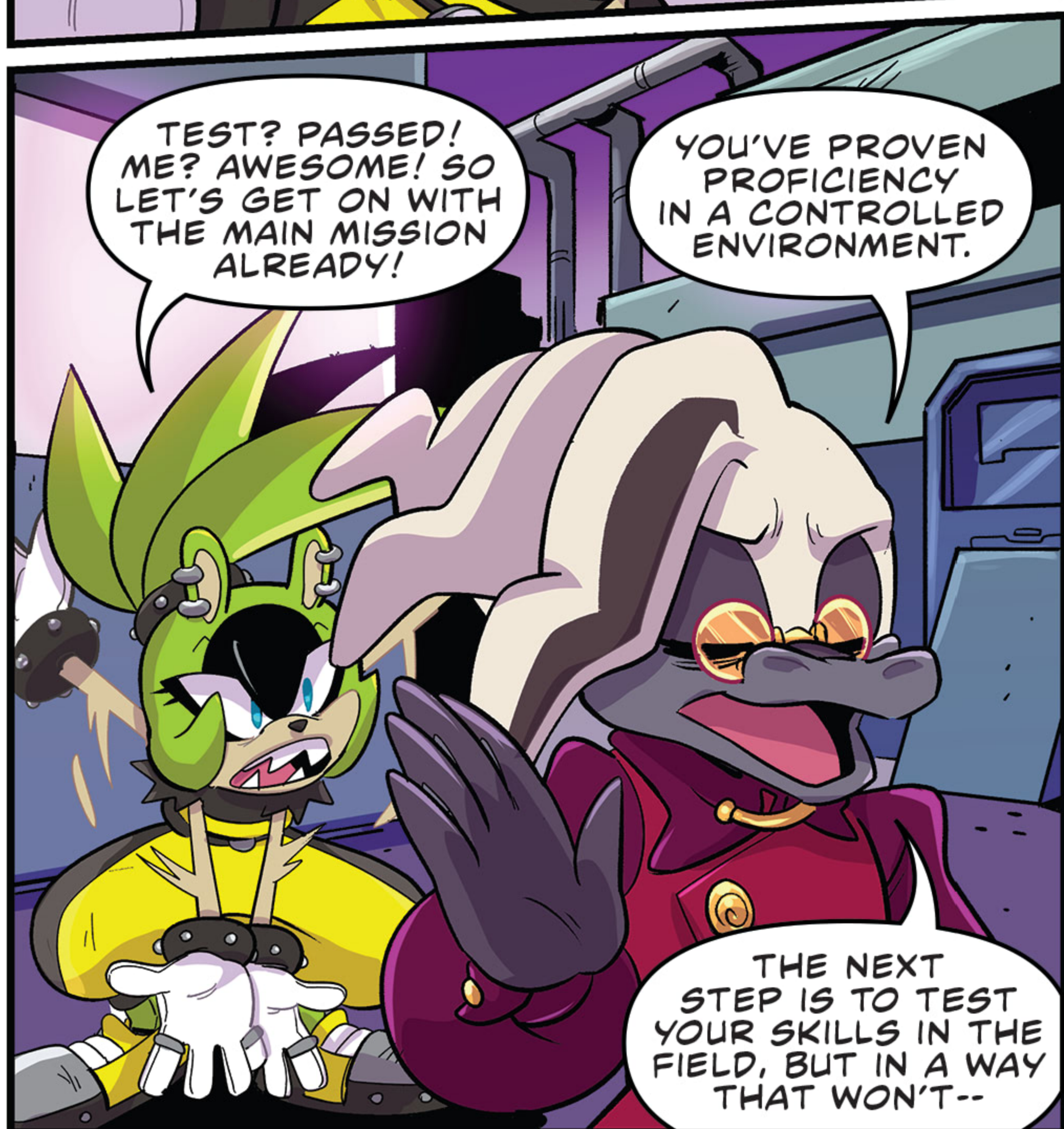
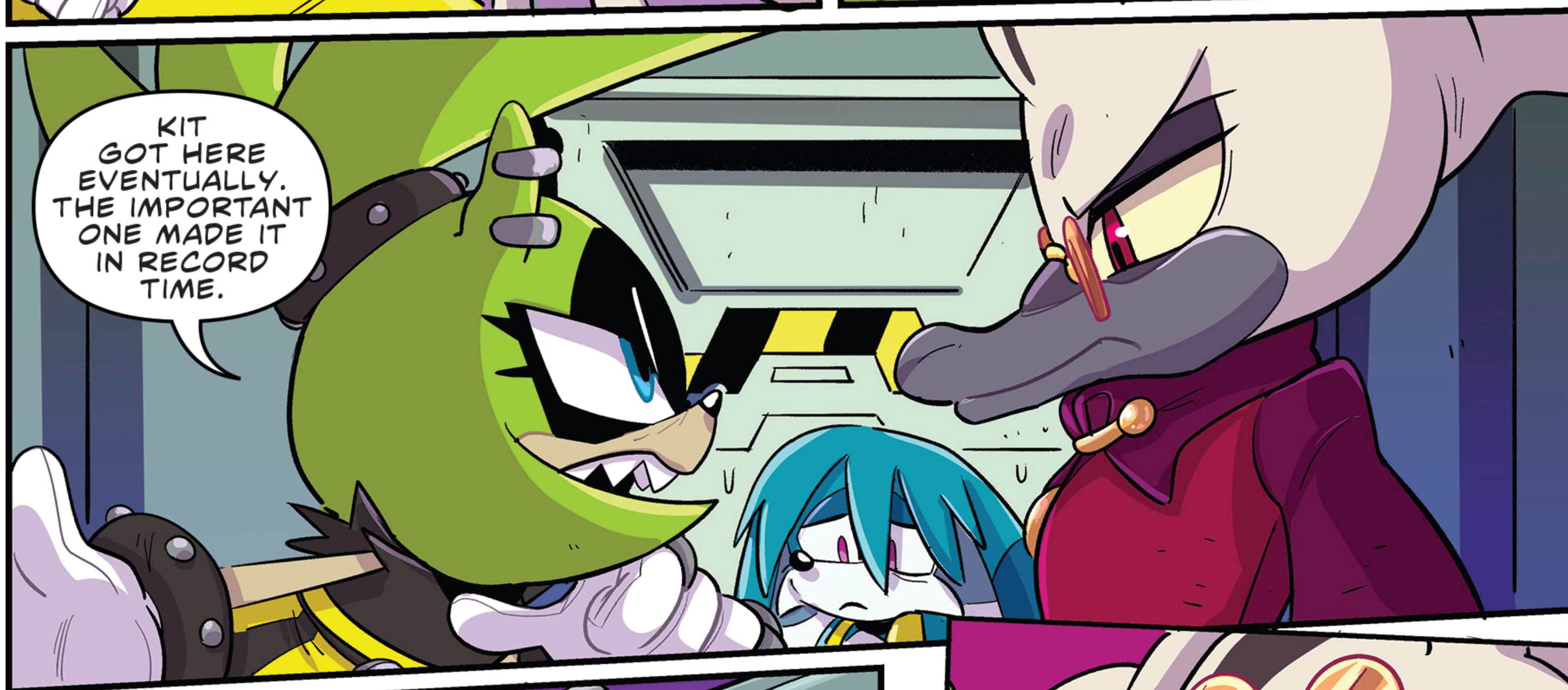
SHUNK

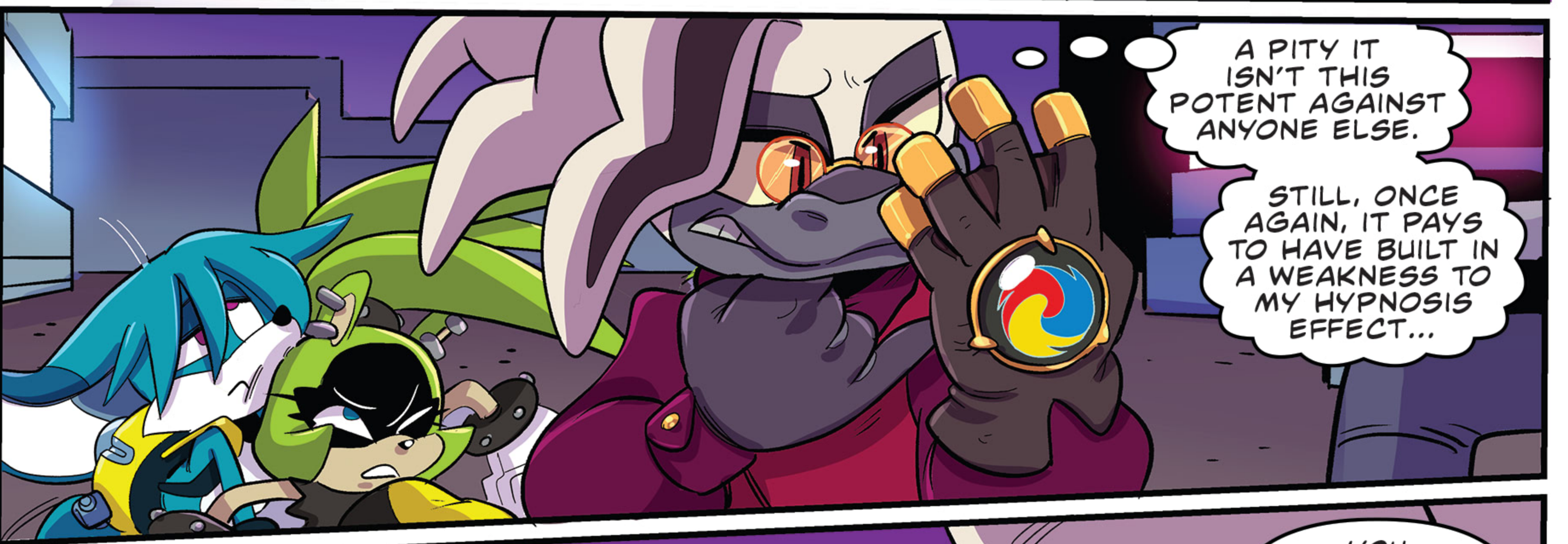
"THUS KITSUNAMI WAS
MODELED AFTER SONIC'S
MOST BENEFICIAL ALLY: TAILS."

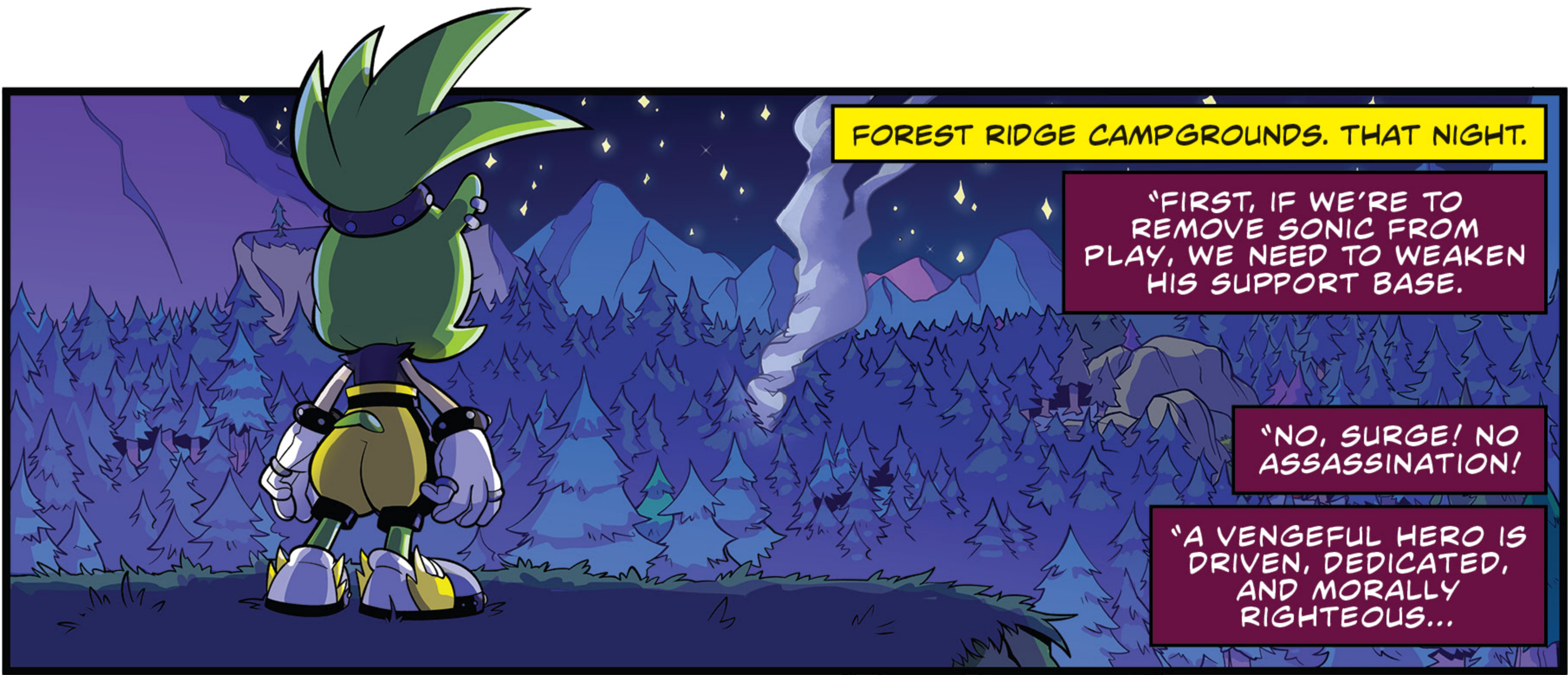
Y-YES,
MA'AM.
THANK YOU,
MA'AM.











FOREST RIDGE CAMPGROUNDS. THAT NIGHT.

"FIRST, IF WE'RE TO REMOVE SONIC FROM PLAY, WE NEED TO WEAKEN HIS SUPPORT BASE."

"NO, SURGE! NO ASSASSINATION!"

"A VENGEFUL HERO IS DRIVEN, DEDICATED, AND MORALLY RIGHTEOUS..."



"...BUT A HERO SUFFERING FROM A TRAGIC LOSS FROM A HORRIBLE ACCIDENT? THAT ONE'S BROKEN AND MOROSE."

LET'S SEE SONIC SAVE ALL YOU HAPPY CAMPERS FROM THIS.



CENTRAL CITY. DAYS LATER.

"SECONDLY, WHILE I KNOW HOW POWERFUL YOU ARE, I NEED TO ASSESS YOUR FINESSE."

"OUR FIRST REAL MISSION MUST BE CLANDESTINE. SO I WANT YOU TO SOW CHAOS AND NOT GET CAUGHT."

LOOK AT 'EM. ACTING LIKE THEY DON'T HAVE A CARE IN THE WORLD. DIDN'T THE ZOMBOTS TEAR THIS CITY APART NOT TOO LONG AGO?*

THE RESTORATION HELPED THEM REBUILD. I-I-I THINK THEY JUST WANT TO BE... HAPPY...?

*STH#21

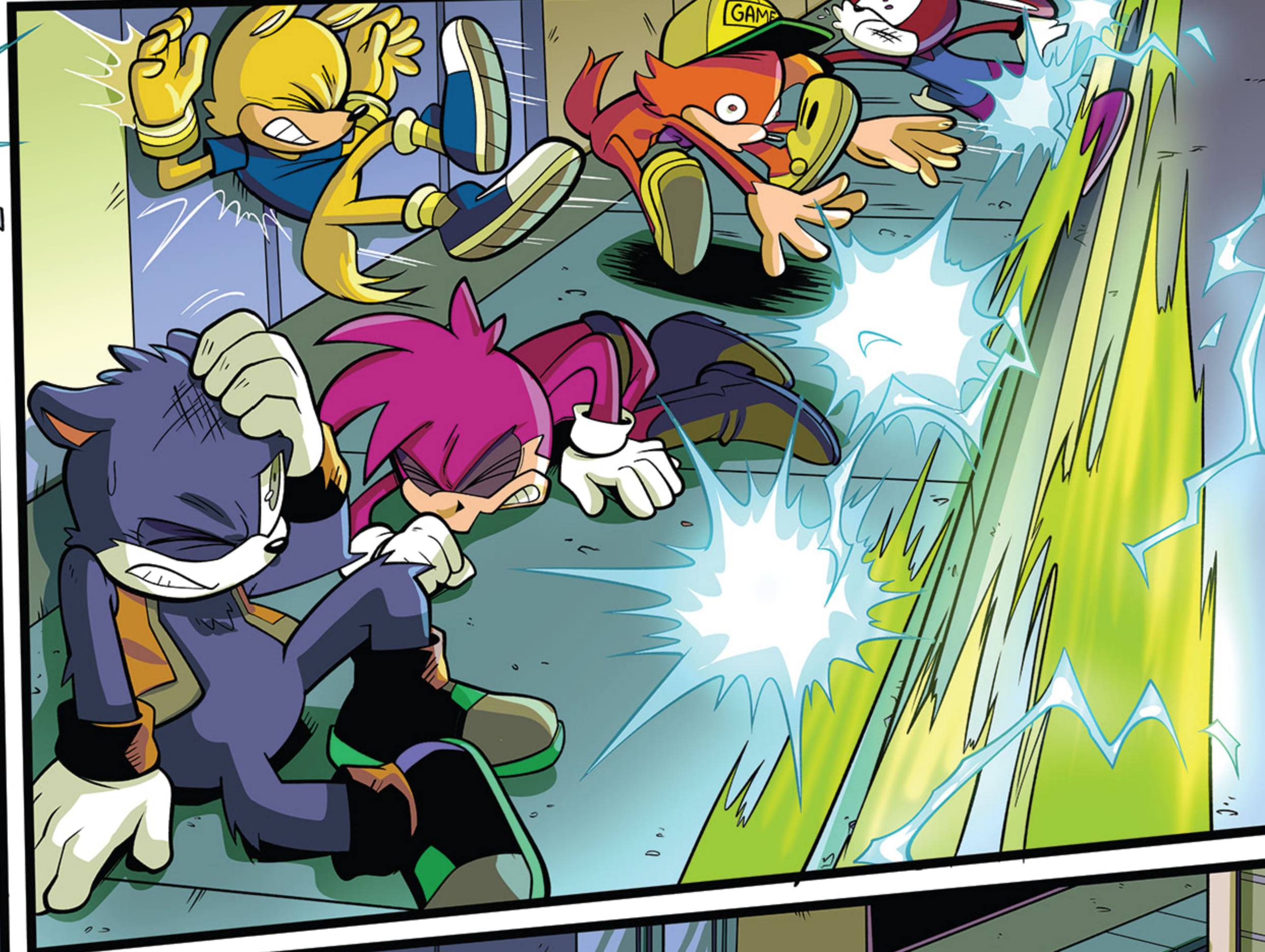
SUCKS TO BE THEM, 'CUZ I AIM TO MISBEHAVE.

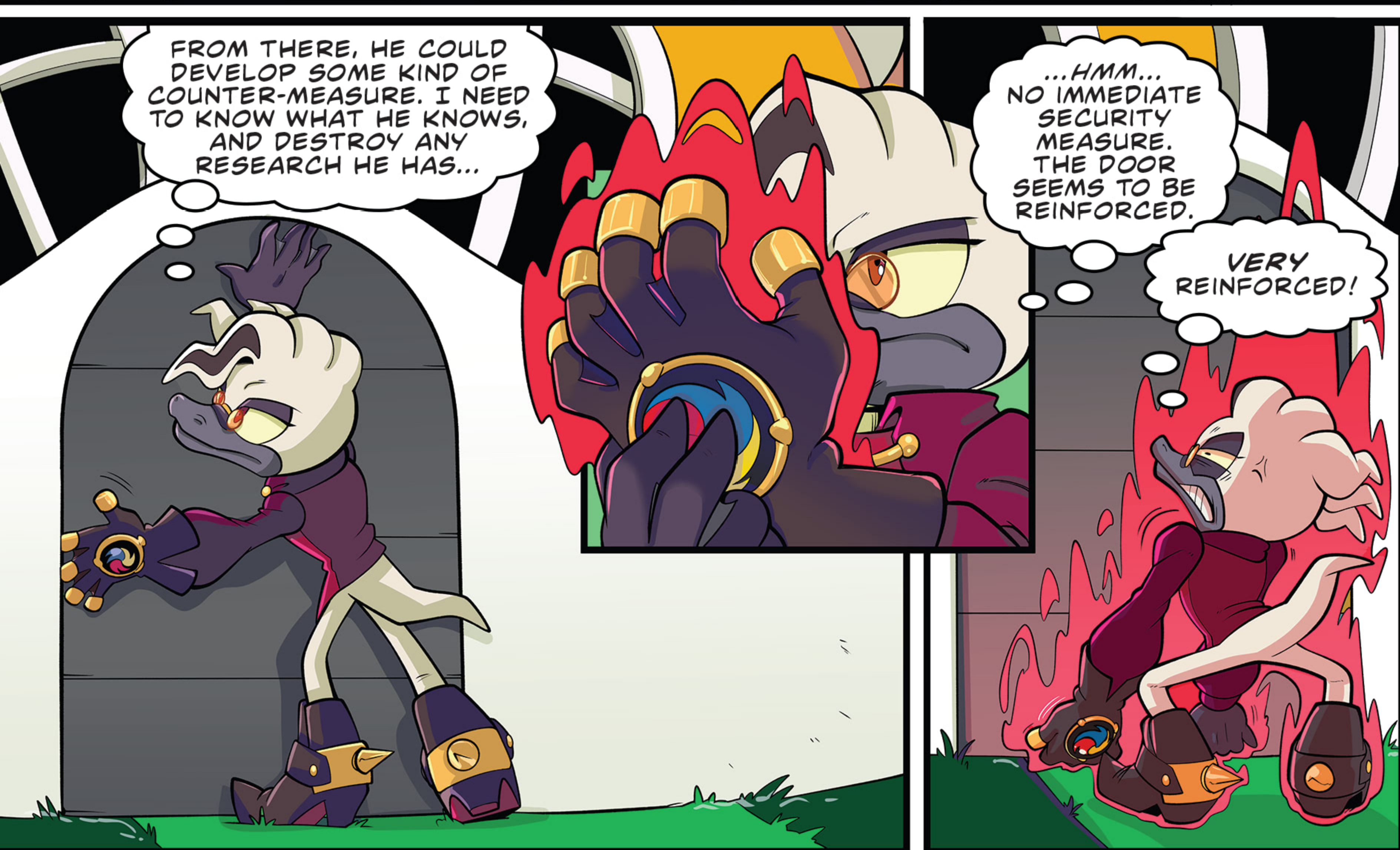
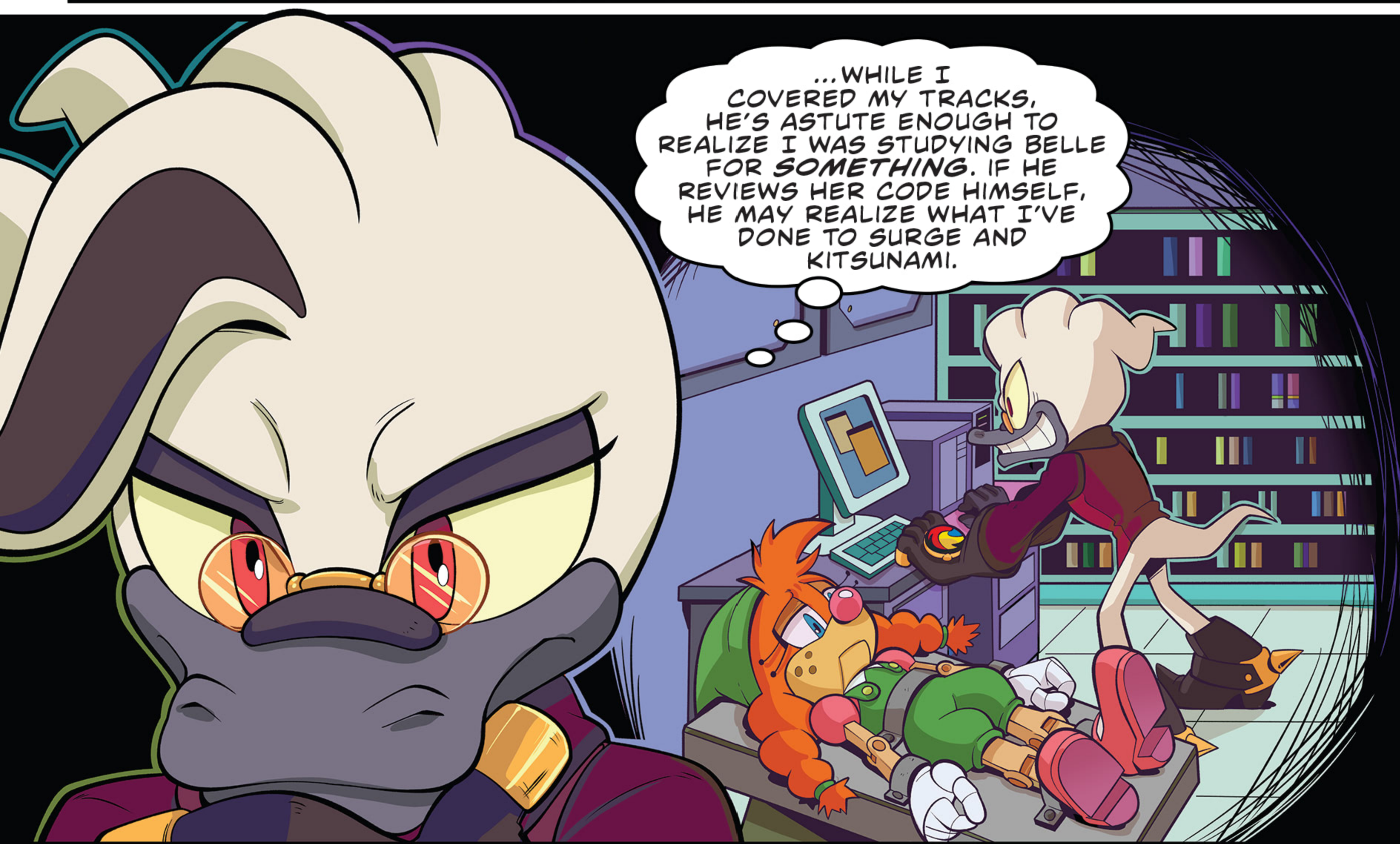
I CAN USE MY HYDRO-COIL TAILS TO REACH UNDERGROUND, ACCESS AND MANIPULATE THE WIRING, AND THROW THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS AND POWER GRIDS INTO DISARRAY!

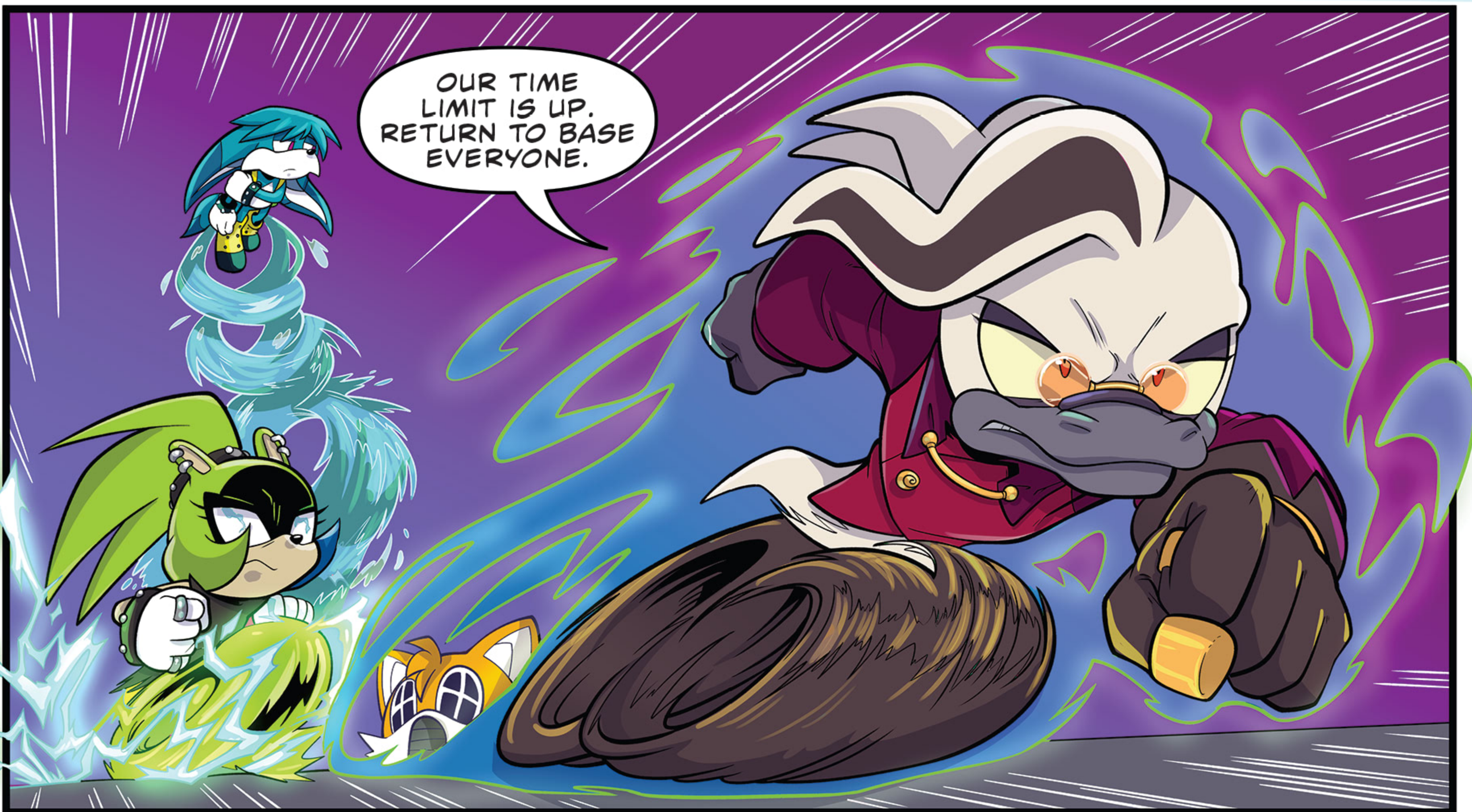
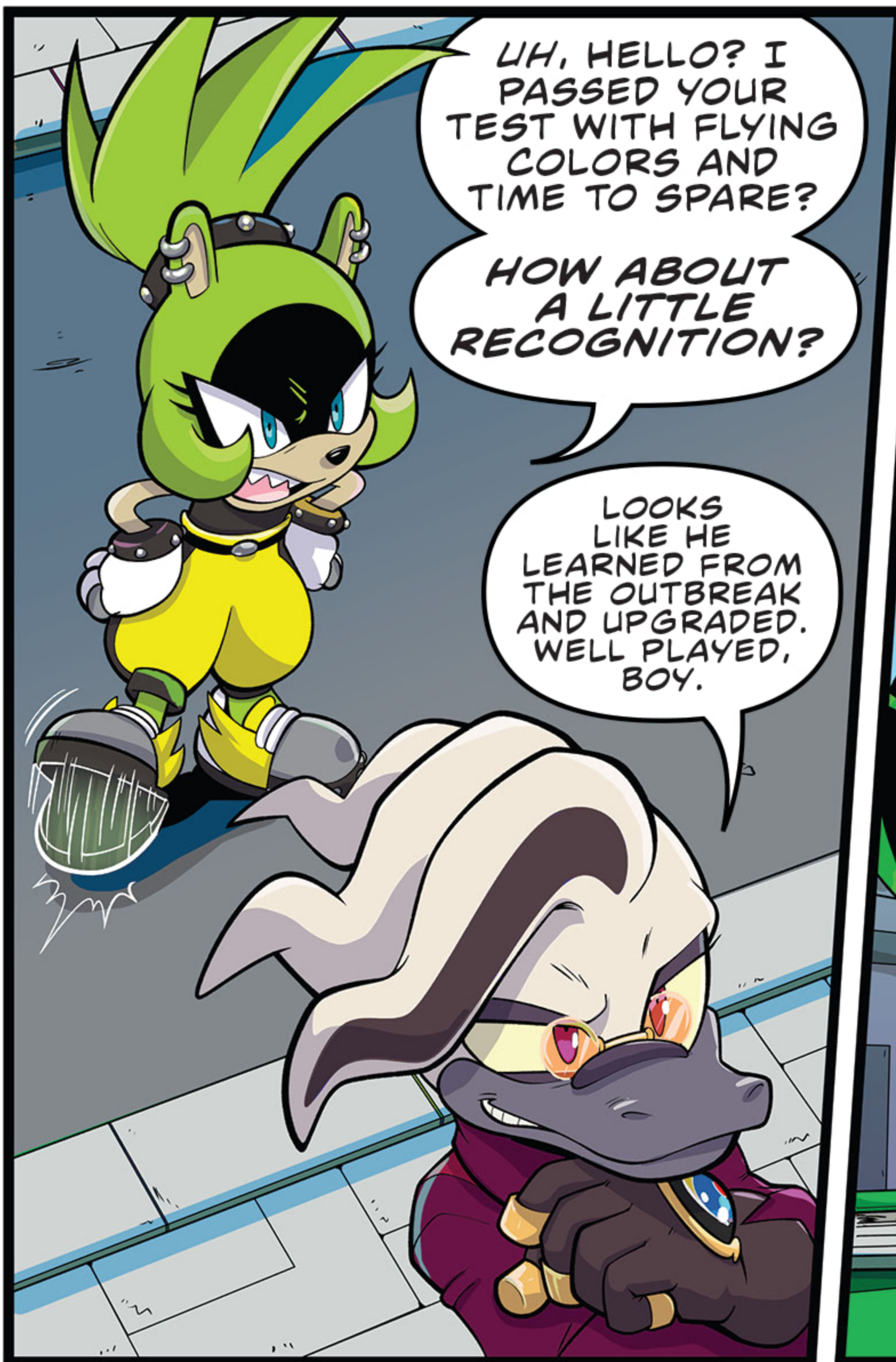
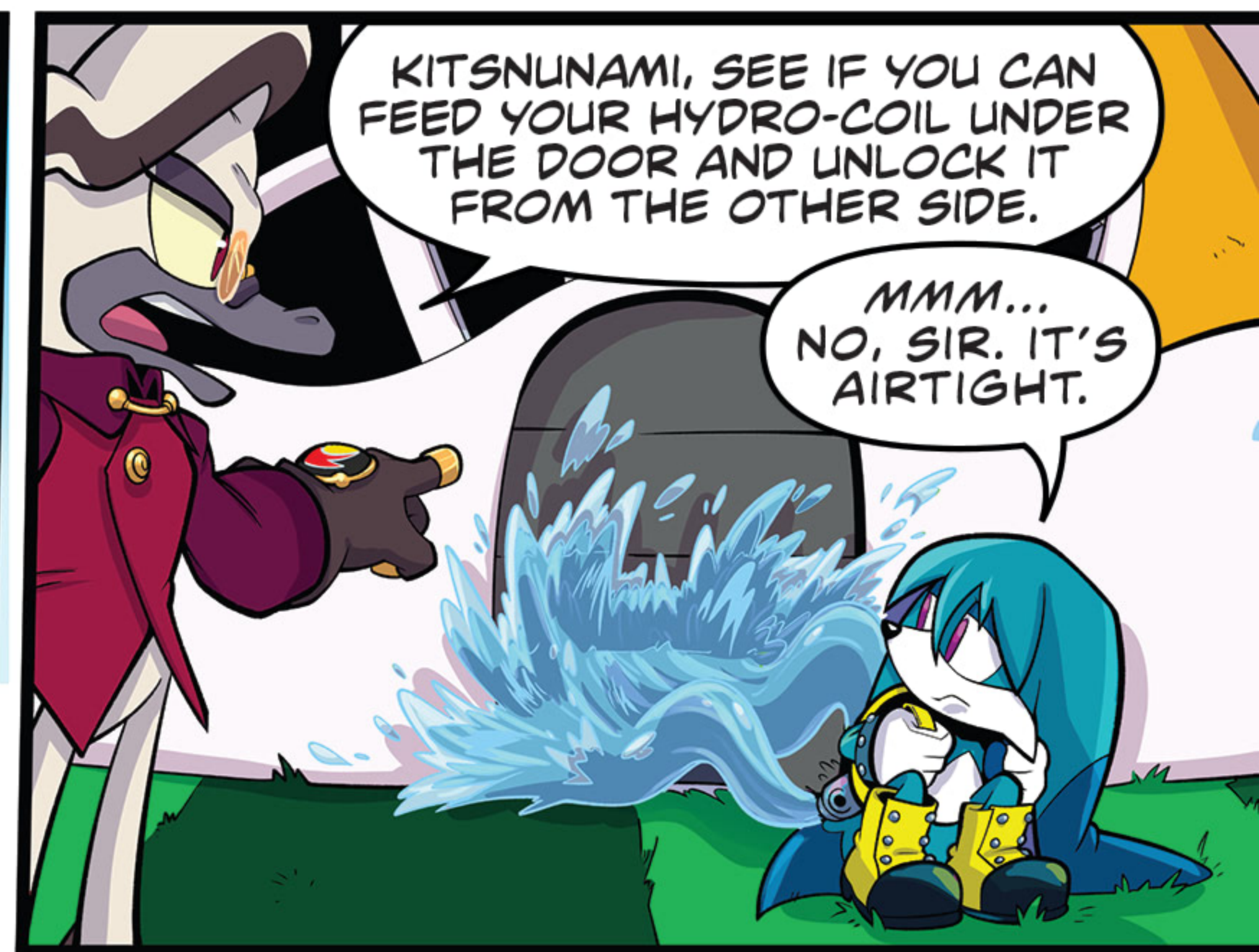
UH-HUH. YOU HAVE FUN WITH THAT.

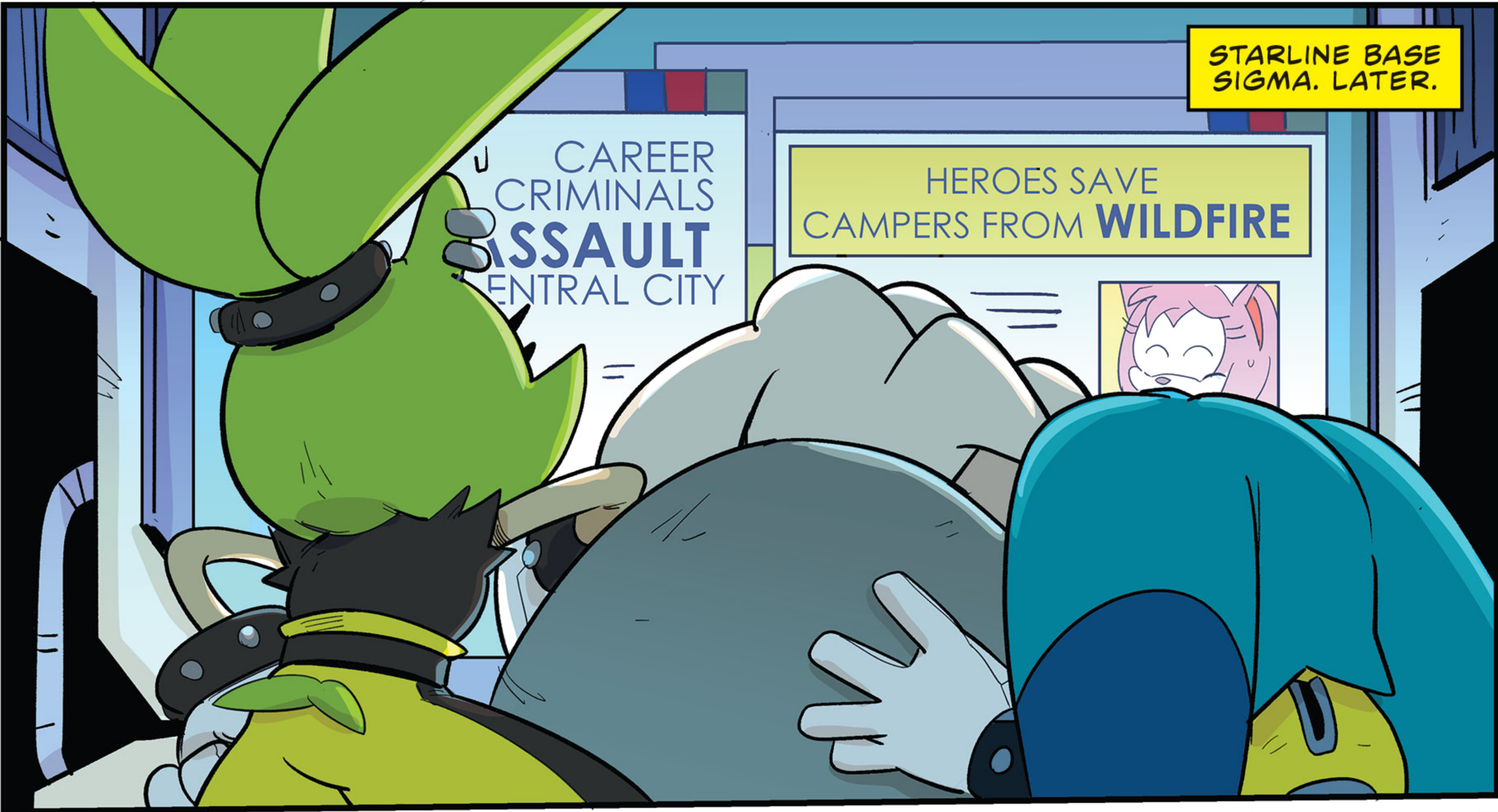
I'MMA GO FAST!

W-WELL... YES... THERE'S THAT, TOO...

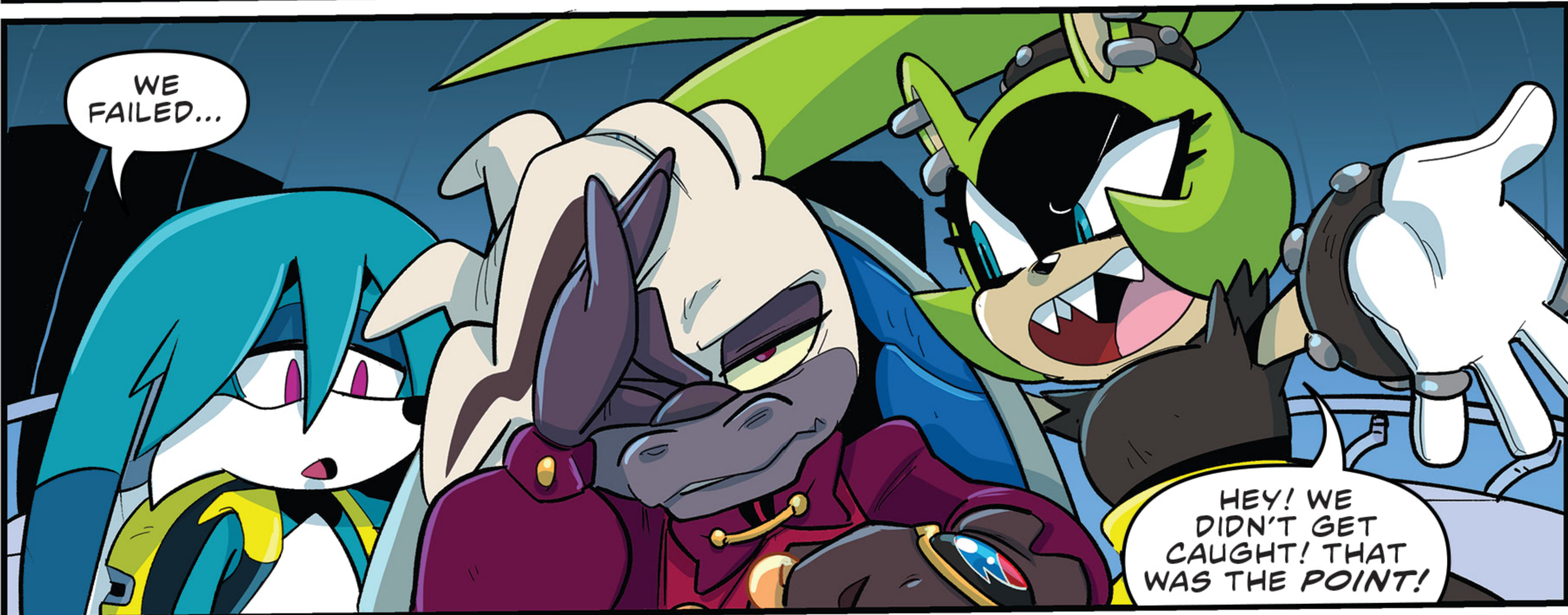






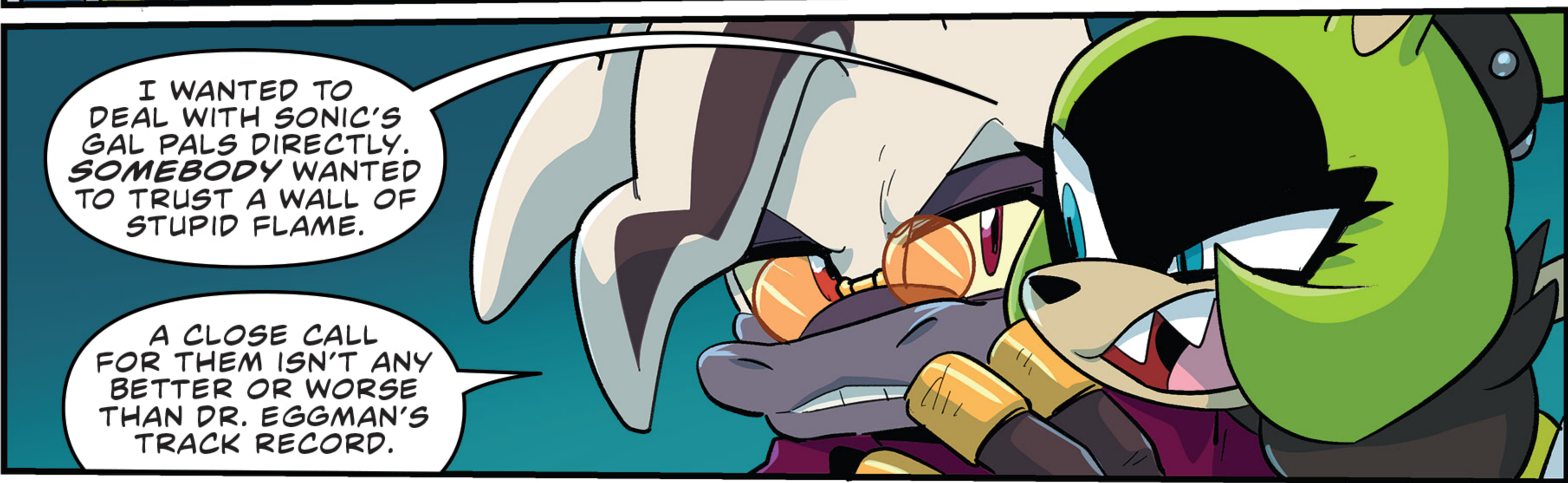


STARLINE BASE SIGMA. LATER.



WE FAILED...

HEY! WE DIDN'T GET CAUGHT! THAT WAS THE POINT!



I WANTED TO DEAL WITH SONIC'S GAL PALS DIRECTLY. **SOMEBODY** WANTED TO TRUST A WALL OF STUPID FLAME.

A CLOSE CALL FOR THEM ISN'T ANY BETTER OR WORSE THAN DR. EGGMAN'S TRACK RECORD.



WHATEVER. WE DID GOOD, RIGHT?

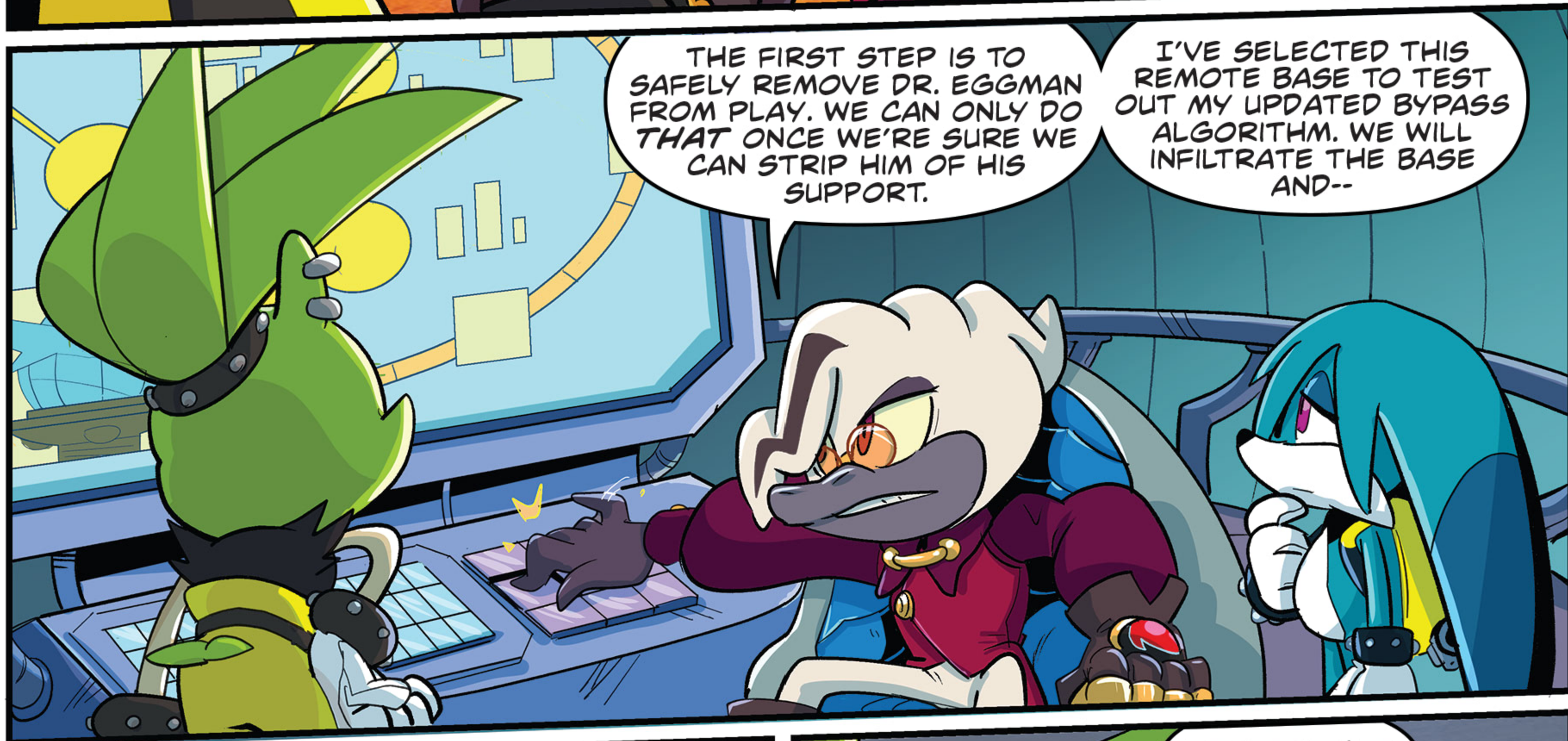
YOU DID "WELL." AND SO NOW IT'S FINALLY TIME...

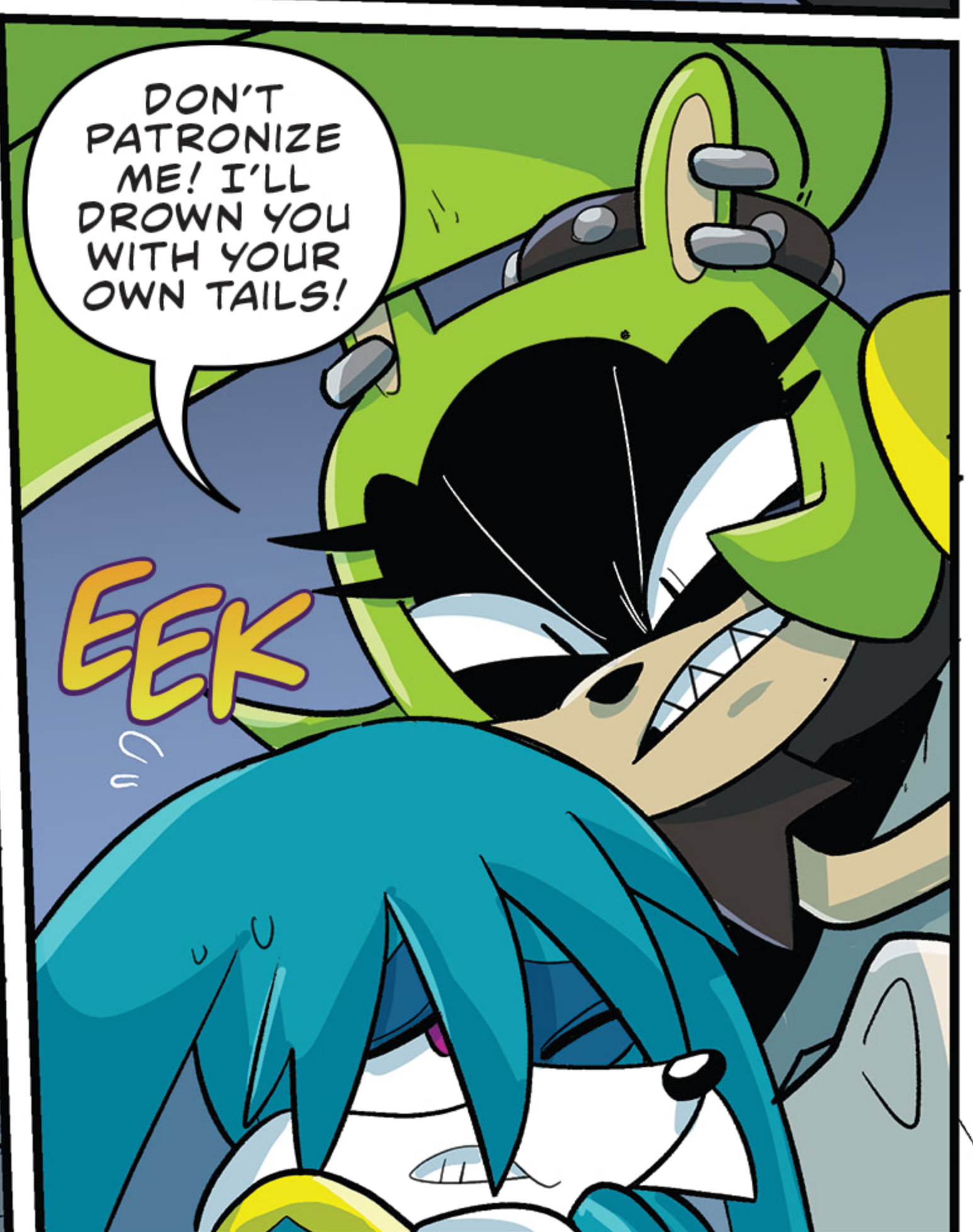
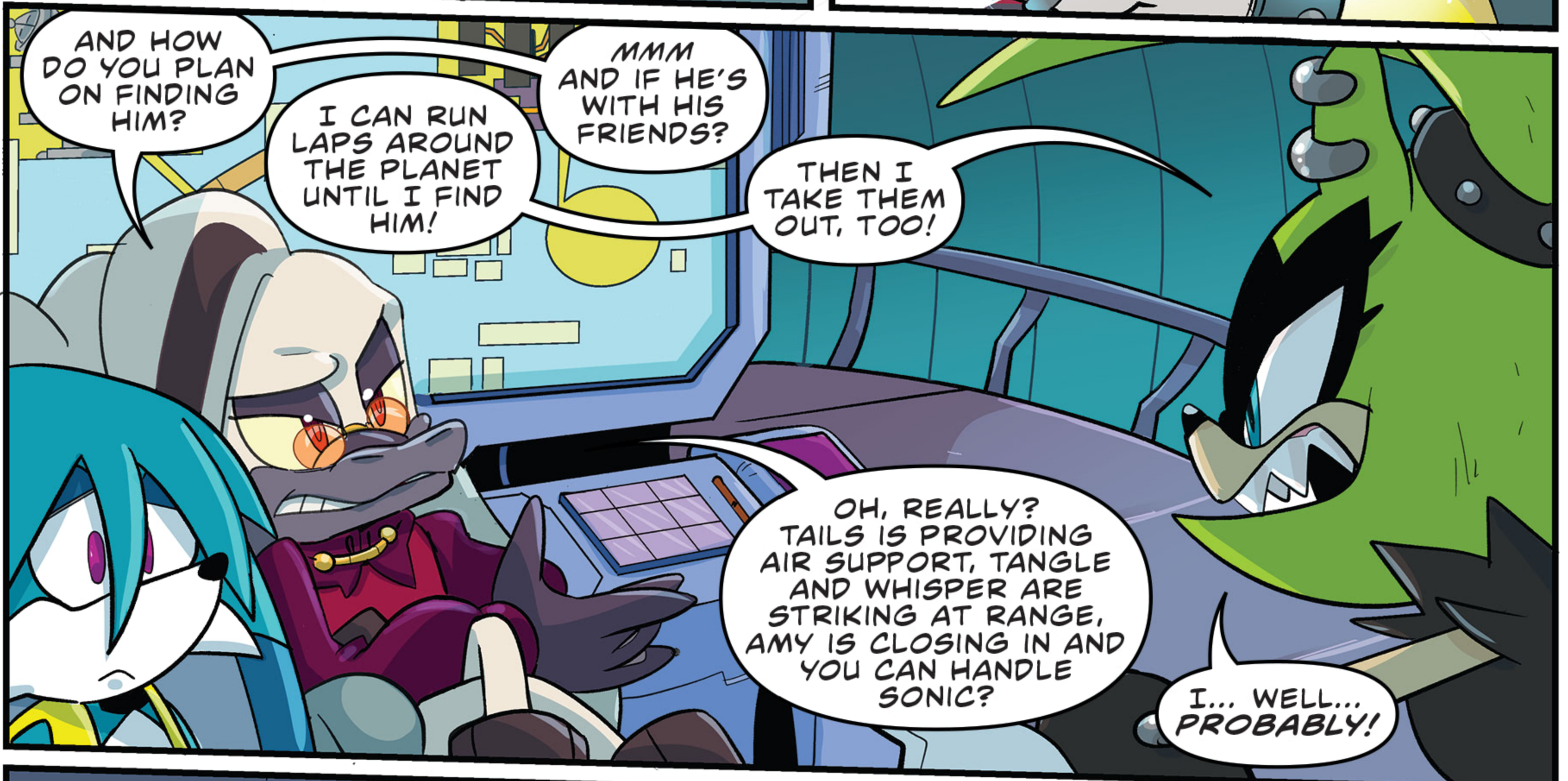
AW, YEAH!

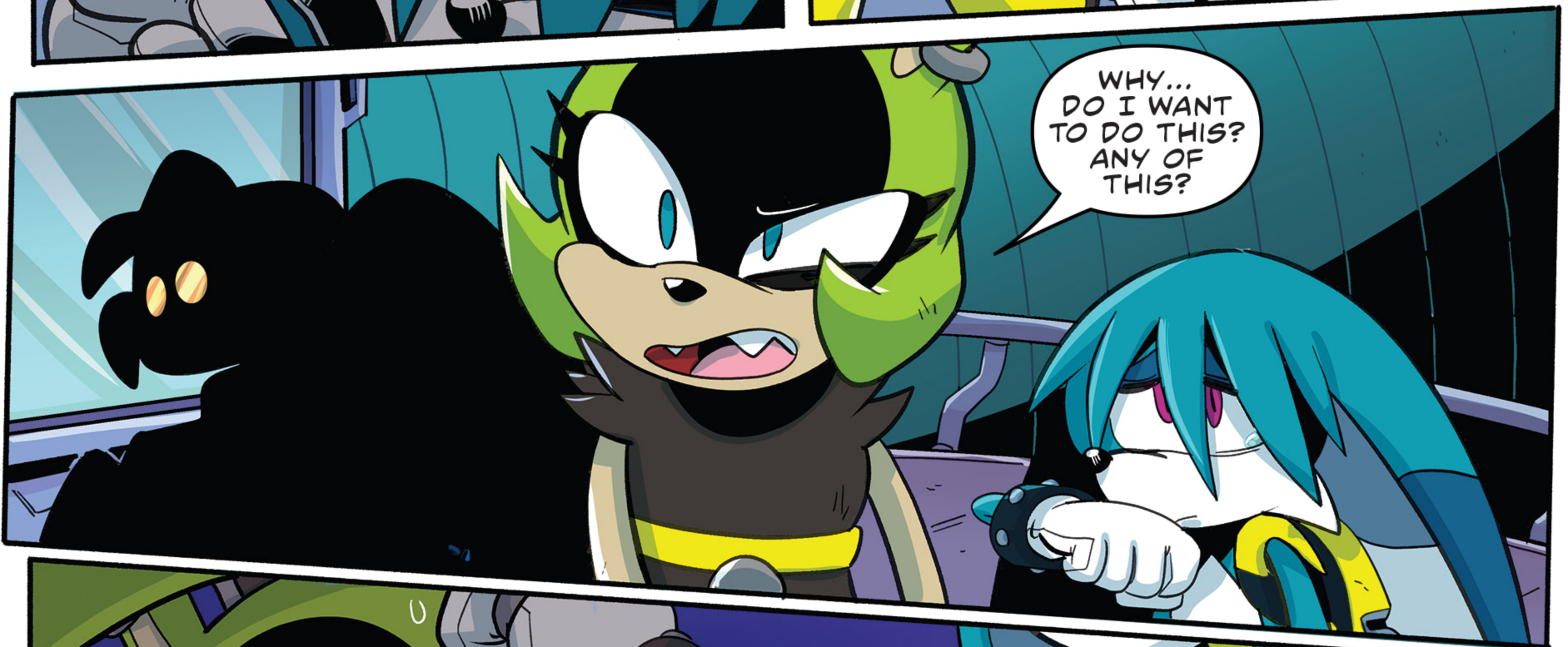
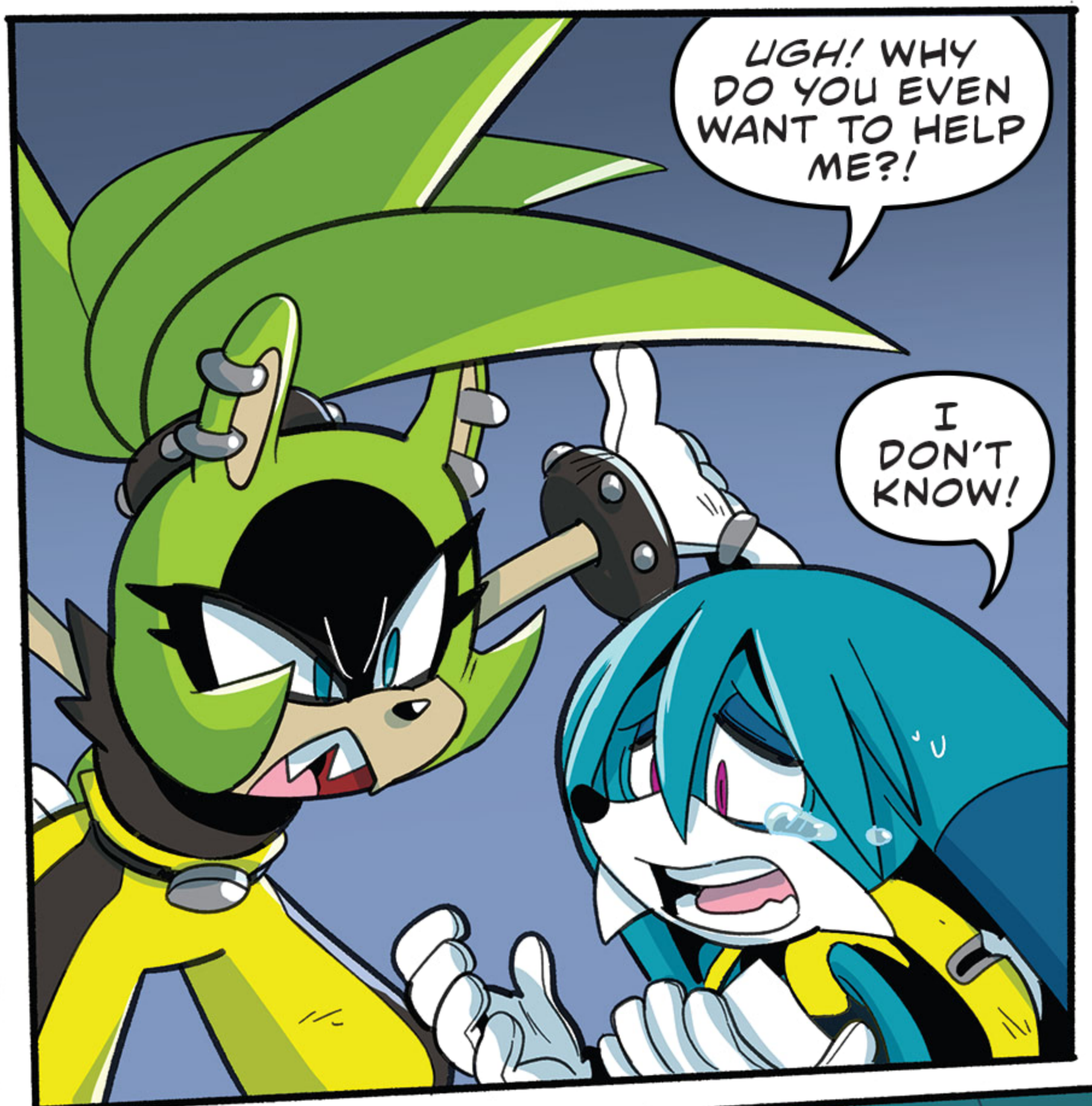


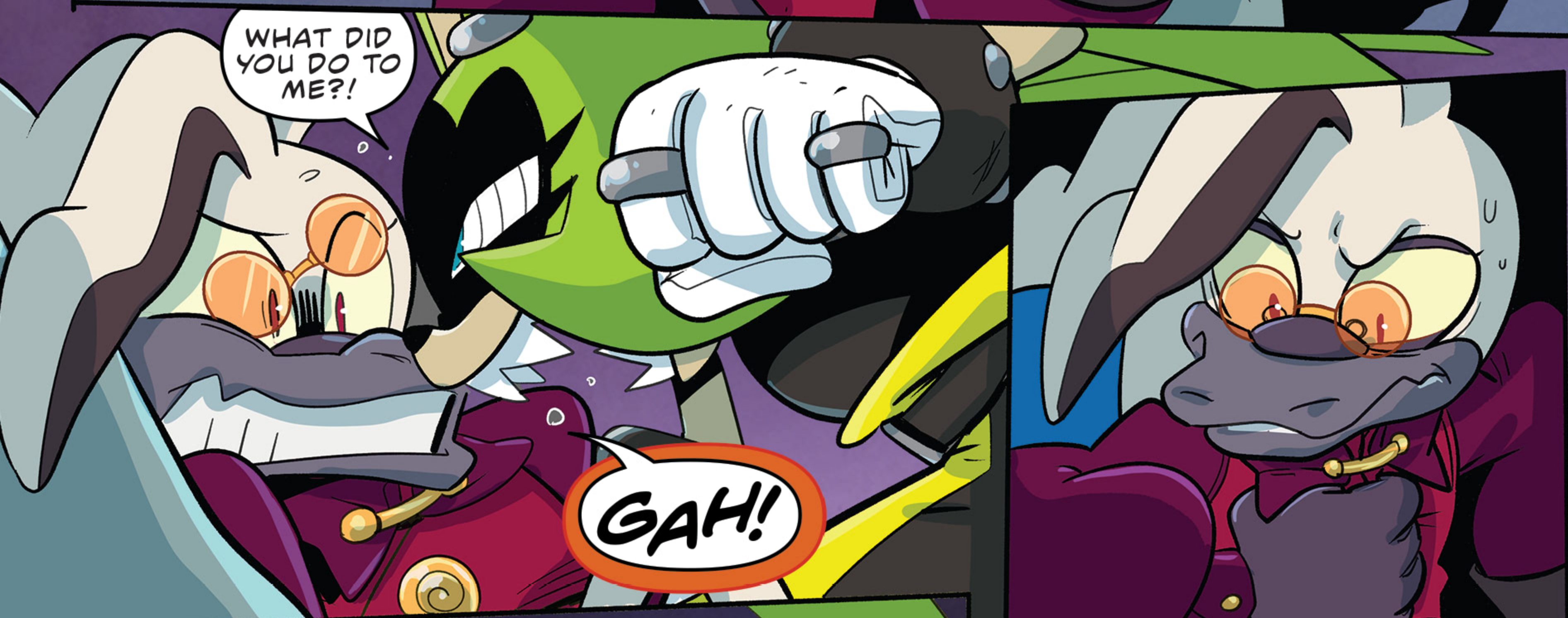
...FOR THE FINAL TEST!

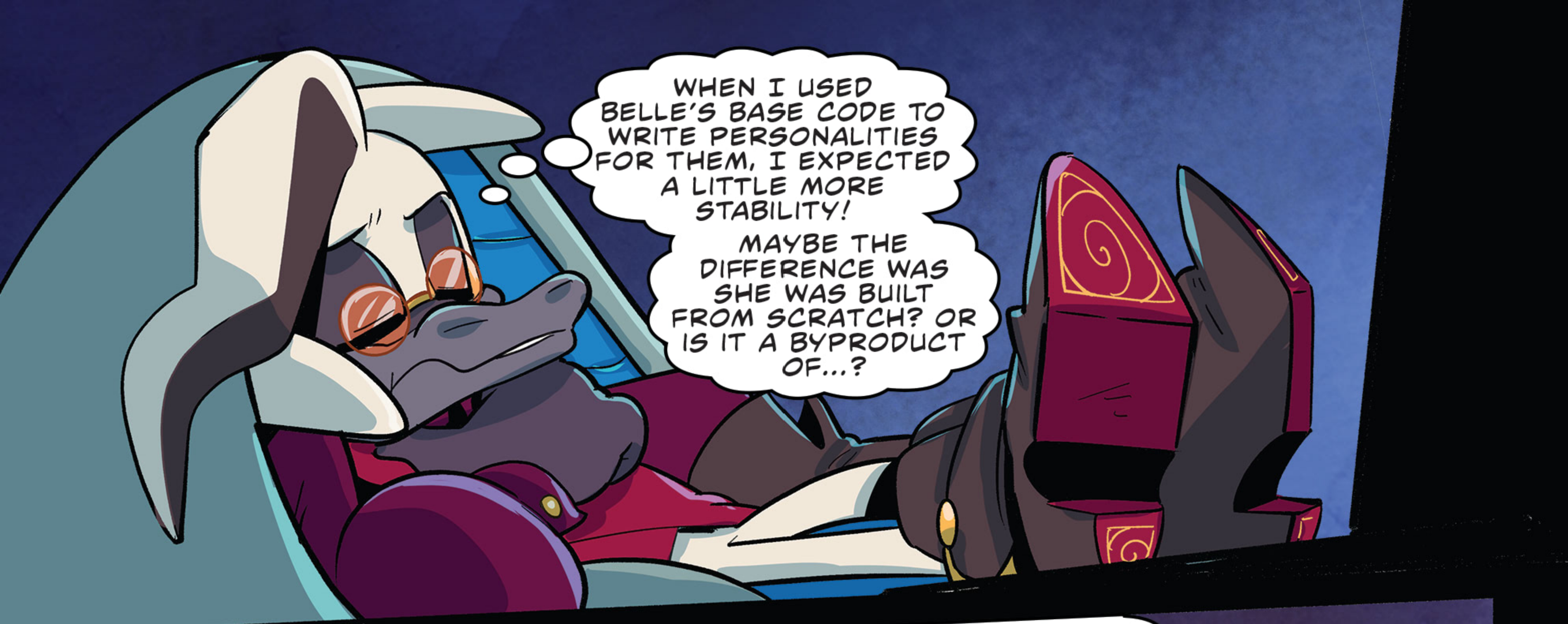
OH, COME ON!











WHEN I USED BELLE'S BASE CODE TO WRITE PERSONALITIES FOR THEM, I EXPECTED A LITTLE MORE STABILITY!

MAYBE THE DIFFERENCE WAS SHE WAS BUILT FROM SCRATCH? OR IS IT A BYPRODUCT OF...?



THIS RESISTANCE TO THE HYPNOTIC CONTROL IS ALSO AN UNWELCOME BUG.

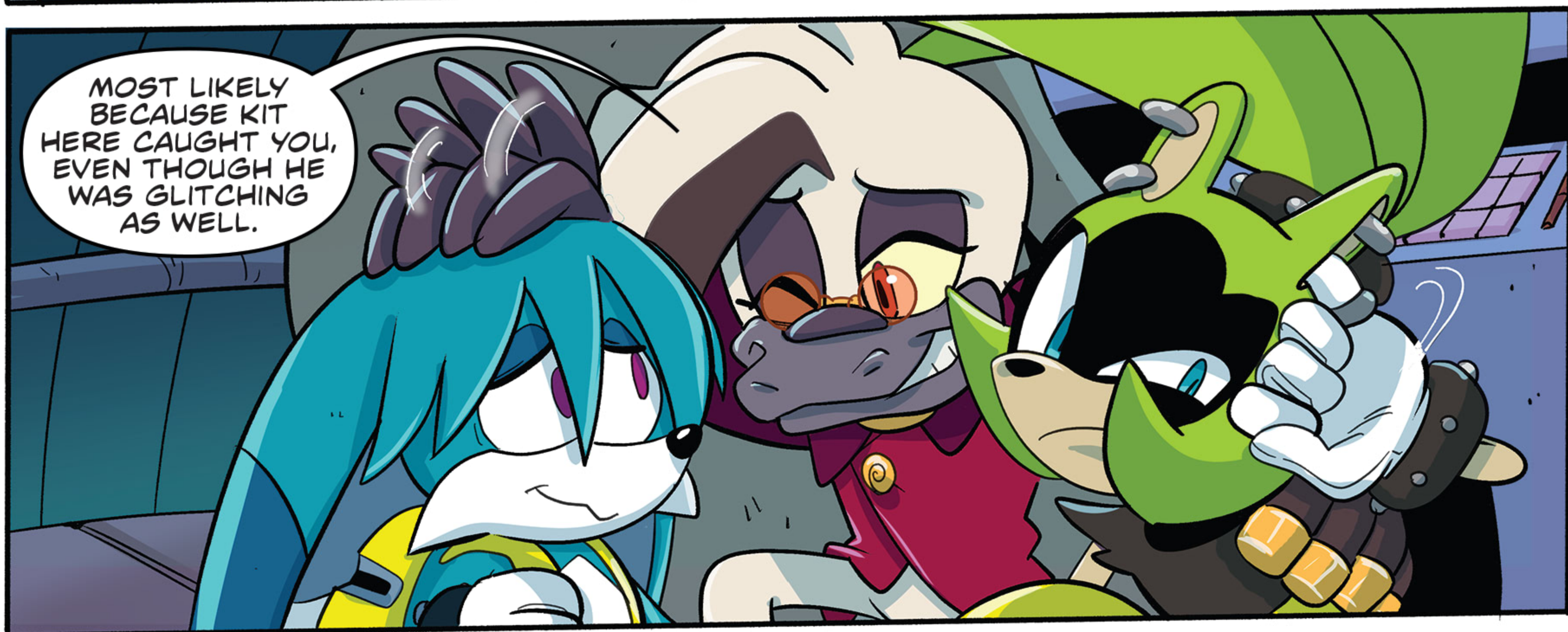


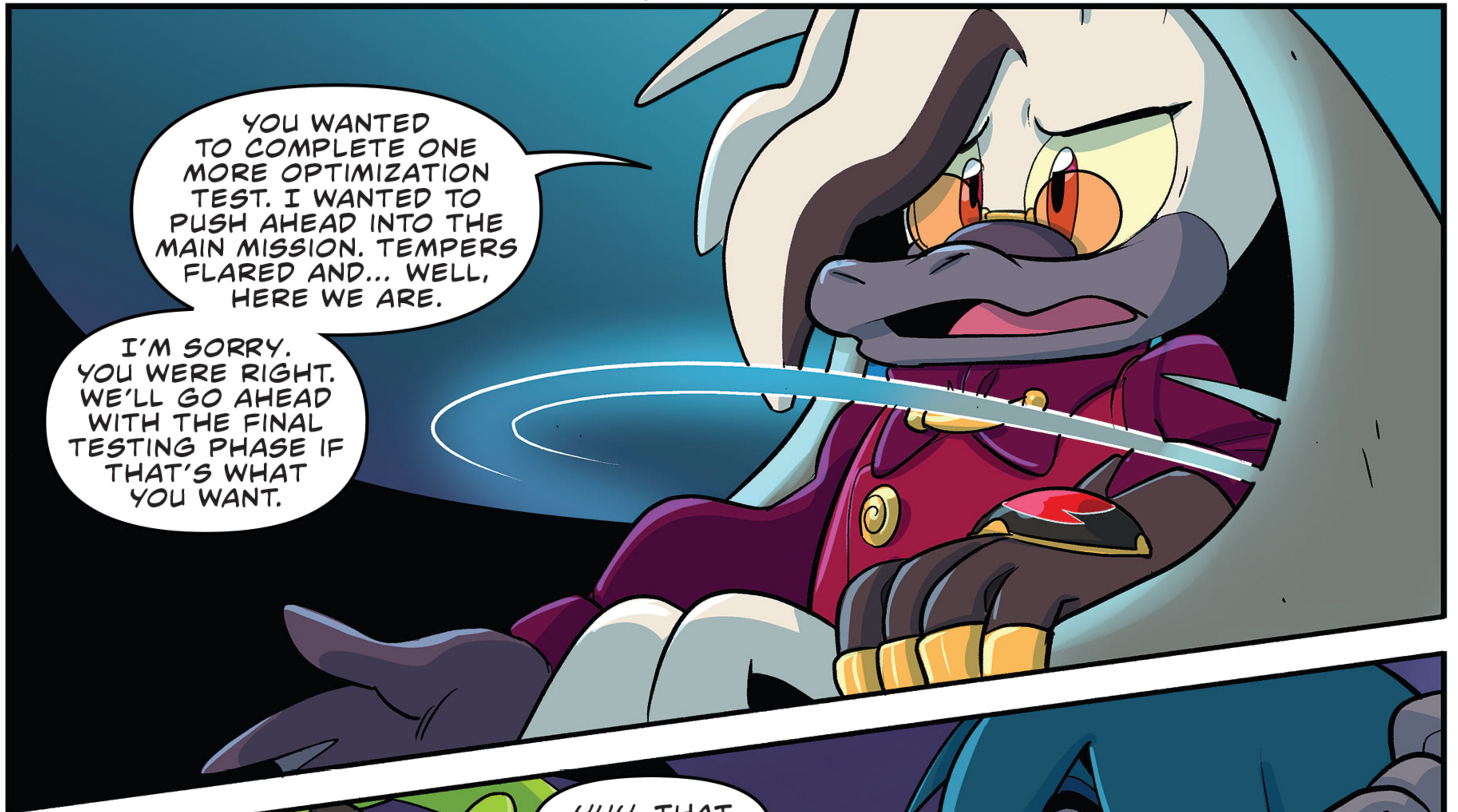
I'VE INVESTED TOO MUCH IN THEM NOW TO START OVER. I'LL JUST HAVE TO HANDLE THEM WITH MORE CARE.

ONCE WE BEGIN TO FULFILL THEIR PRIMARY DIRECTIVES, THEIR PERSONALITIES SHOULD EVEN OUT.



SHOW TIME.





YOU WANTED TO COMPLETE ONE MORE OPTIMIZATION TEST. I WANTED TO PUSH AHEAD INTO THE MAIN MISSION. TEMPERS FLARED AND... WELL, HERE WE ARE.

I'M SORRY. YOU WERE RIGHT. WE'LL GO AHEAD WITH THE FINAL TESTING PHASE IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT.



HUH. THAT SOUND RIGHT TO YOU?

I DO WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE SAFE, MA'AM.

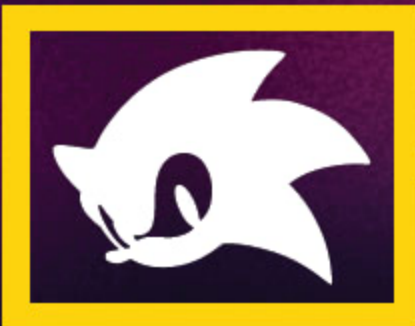
ALL RIGHT THEN. SURE. WE'LL... UH... DO THE TEST. WHAT'S THE PLAN?



THE FIRST STEP IS TO SAFELY REMOVE DR. EGGMAN FROM PLAY. WE CAN ONLY DO THAT ONCE WE'RE SURE WE CAN STRIP HIM OF HIS SUPPORT.

I'VE SELECTED THIS REMOTE BASE TO TEST OUT MY UPDATED BYPASS ALGORITHM. WE WILL INFILTRATE THE BASE AND THEN...

**NEXT TIME:
STRESS TEST!**



NEXT MONTH



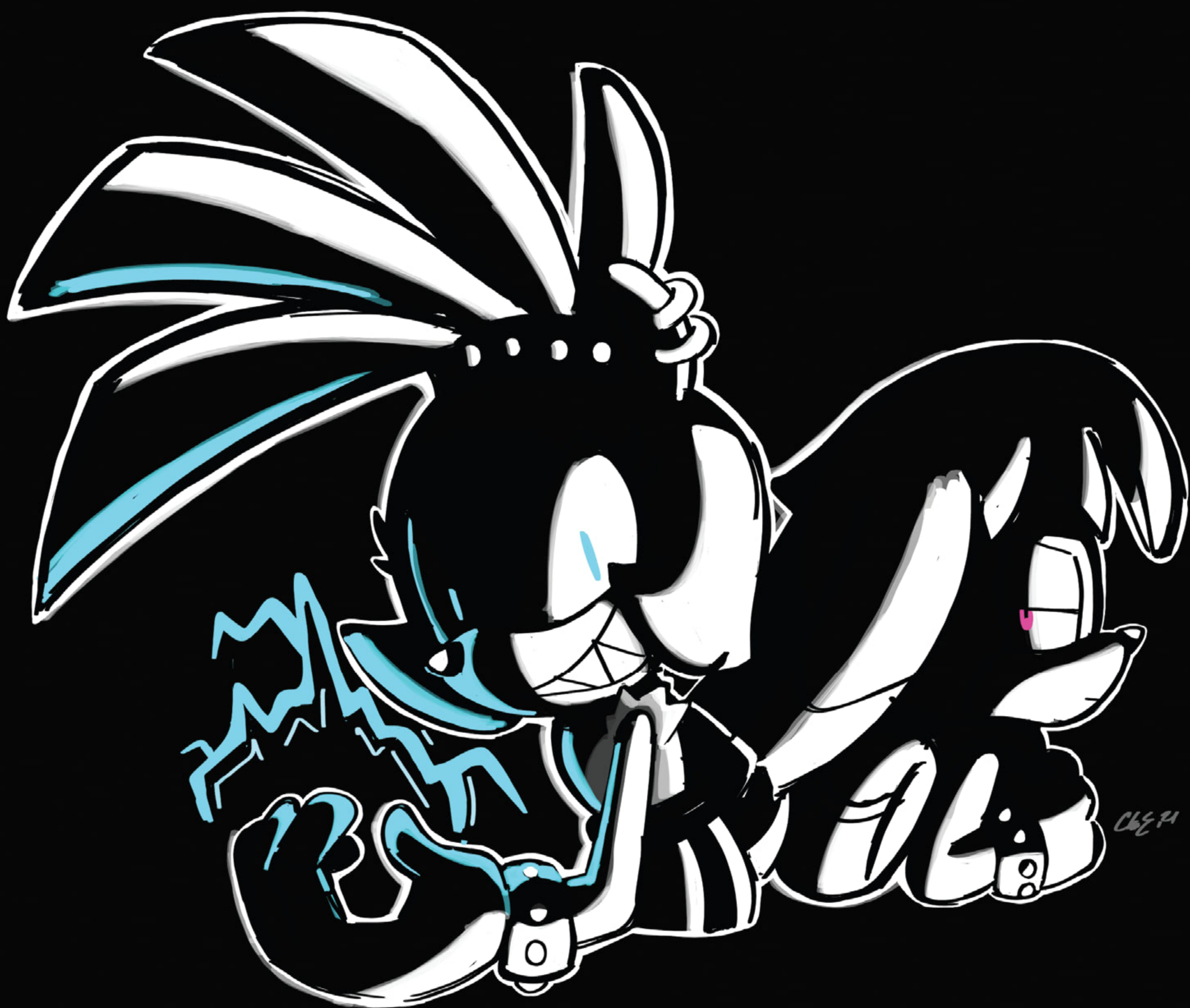
SONIC

LETTERS SQUAD

IMPOSTER SYNDROME

Hello, Imposters! Thank you for joining Ian Flynn, Thomas Rothlisberger, Aaron Hammerstrom, Matt Froese, Valentina Pinto, and Shawn Lee for the very first issue of Imposter Syndrome! Surge and Kit have been getting lots of love since they were announced, so let's check out your art featuring the devious duo!

Please don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them: "OKAY TO PRINT!" And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next month, a surge of tests leaves the imposters in need of a repair kit!



ART BY
KYMANI





ART MAURO FONSECA **COLORS JOANA LAFUENTE**



ART THOMAS ROTH LISBERGER **COLORS VALENTINA PINTO**



ART EVAN STANLEY

ON YOUR MARKS. GET SET. **GO!**



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EVAN STANLEY • ADAM BRYCE THOMAS
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